

ICJ underlines anti-occupation unity

GENEVA (R) — A human rights delegate who visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip said Wednesday old and young Palestinians were united in the fight to end Israeli occupation of the territories. Niall MacDermott, secretary-general of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), told the United Nations Commission on Human Rights: "The peoples of these territories are now united in their spirit of resistance to the occupation. Men and women of all ages have joined in supporting the uprising, and are included among its victims." MacDermott said that during his visit last month he had interviewed victims of beatings by Israeli soldiers and had spoken to lawyers and U.N. officials in the territories. He said young Israeli soldiers trying to keep order had used "illegal violence," and many people had hands broken with rifle butts to prevent them from throwing stones at the troops. MacDermott is an observer delegate at the annual session in Geneva of the 43-nation UNCHR which opened Monday. The commission is discussing human rights violations in the occupied territories as a priority item in a six-week meeting to review human rights problems around the world.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Qadhafi due in Tunis today

TUNIS (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is expected to make an official visit to Tunis Thursday, five weeks after the two Arab states reestablished diplomatic ties following a rupture of two years. The Tunisian daily *La Presse* said Qadhafi and President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali would meet for two days. Talks were expected to include the three-nation treaty of "friendship and cooperation." The government of former President Habib Bourguiba broke relations with Libya about two years ago following the expulsion of more than 35,000 Tunisian workers from Libya. Relations were resumed Dec. 28. Ibn Ali took power in a bloodless palace coup Nov. 7, declaring that the 84-year-old Bourguiba was unfit to serve because of age and health. Qadhafi will be the second foreign chief of state to visit Tunis since Ibn Ali's takeover. President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria met with Ibn Ali in early January and then stopped in Libya for a one-day visit. Benyedid played a significant role in mediating the reconciliation between Libya and Tunisia, according to diplomatic sources. Algeria is tied to Tunisia and neighbouring Mauritania by the friendship treaty.

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Bahrain boosts naval power

BAHRAIN (AP) — The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, Wednesday inaugurated two torpedo boats, the latest addition to his country's naval forces. The ceremony, on the occasion of Bahrain's defence forces day, was also attended by the prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa. The two ships, supplied by West Germany, were described by the navy commander, Yousef Mallah, as "the backbone of the naval forces." Only in 1984, Bahrain acquired from West Germany its first missile warship, equipped with two fully-automatic gun turrets. Bahrain's navy now boasts 2 Luerssen 45-metre gunboats and two Luerssen 38-metre boats, equipped with the Exocet anti-ship missiles.

Peres wants 'peace ship' stopped

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, has asked Greece to prevent a Greek ship from sailing to Israel with Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories, a foreign ministry spokesman said Wednesday. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has described the trip as a symbolic voyage intended to show that Palestinians are willing to return to their homeland peacefully and establish a "real, honourable peace" with Israel. Peres' request was conveyed in a message to Greek Foreign Minister Karolis Papoulias. Israel had also made separate, unspecified approaches to other countries through diplomatic channels, the Israeli spokesman said.

Senate confirms Kennedy nomination

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Wednesday unanimously confirmed Federal Judge Anthony Kennedy as a justice of the U.S. supreme court by a vote of 97 to 0. The 51-year-old conservative from California was President Reagan's third choice to fill the vacancy left by Justice Lewis Powell's resignation last June.

Carlucci in Lisbon

LISBON (AP) — U.S. defence Secretary Frank Carlucci arrived Wednesday for talks aimed at allaying Portuguese anger over cuts in U.S. payments for the use of the strategic Lajes air base in the mid-Atlantic Azores Islands. Portuguese officials were expected to tell Carlucci the United States must guarantee aid increases for the base or face a formal request for immediate renegotiation of the current-base extension accord.

India launches nuclear navy

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi launched India as Asia's second nuclear maritime power Wednesday and accused foreign powers of infesting the Indian Ocean with nuclear weapons. Gandhi accepted a Soviet nuclear-powered submarine and called on the superpowers to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. He received the boat for India's rapidly expanding navy at Vishakhapatnam naval base in the Bay of Bengal. It had sailed from the Eastern Soviet port of Vladivostok. India has leased the submarine, which is not armed with nuclear missiles, for training. It thus became only the second Asian nation after China with nuclear-powered warships.

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- The French news agency, Agence France-Presse quoted well informed sources in Paris as saying Meurant, 27, worked for the French secret service.
- His body remained at the morgue of the Hotel Dieu hospital in east Beirut pending arrangements to fly it to France.

Meets Mitterrand on Mideast situation King criticises U.S. veto of U.N. resolution

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein criticised the United States Wednesday for its refusal to condemn Israel's "iron fist" clampdown on Palestinian protesters, saying Washington was losing credibility in the region.

The King was referring to the U.S. veto Monday of a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an end to Israeli suppression of Palestinian protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"We were disturbed by the U.S. veto which was neither positive nor constructive, especially as it touches on Israeli moves against our families in the occupied territories," the King told reporters after a two-and-a-half-hour meeting with President Francois Mitterrand.

"We consider the position the United States has taken encouraging behaviour to our brothers in the occupied lands and reflects directly on American credibility."

The King also criticised the cool reception Washington gave last week to revised proposals for an international peace conference, canvassed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a separate tour of the West.

The Reagan administration

sent veteran envoy Philip Habib to Amman Saturday and then on a surprise visit to Mubarak in Paris to examine peace efforts.

Habib mission

Asked what he thought of Habib's visit, the King answered: "We have to wait and see what happens."

"We would hope that what is happening in the occupied territories would make all parties recognise the dangers of inactivity and the need for fast constructive activity to solve the whole problem."

"Mr. Habib didn't convey to me any American initiative, but it is clear that the continuing uprising of the Palestinian people against Israel's occupation has forced the U.S. administration to reconsider the fait accompli policy adopted by Israel," the King said. "Mr. Habib came to Jordan to convey to us the concern of the U.S. administration over the recent developments in the situation and its readiness to revive

(Continued on page 5)

Lebanon launches hunt for assassins

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Lebanese government called on security forces throughout the country Wednesday to help in the hunt for killers of a French intelligence officer in Beirut.

French diplomats also met in the divided Lebanese capital to discuss the latest in a series of guerrilla attacks on French targets here, embassy sources said.

A 27-year-old Frenchman, holding a passport in the name of Jacques Meurant, was shot dead behind the wheel of his car in mostly Christian east Beirut Tuesday.

Three unidentified gunmen escaped after pumping bullets into him with sub-machineguns equipped with silencers.

The French embassy identified the victim as a businessman, but militia security sources in Beirut said he was deputy chief of the French intelligence service.

A spokesman for the predominantly Christian right-wing militia, the Lebanese forces, told Reuters that militiamen together with government security forces were "mobilised in search of a car used in the killing."

He said details of a blue Peugeot 504 had been circulated to all army, police and militia units and security authorities were giving the manhunt top priority.

East Beirut and surrounding areas are controlled by fighters loyal to President Amin Gemayel and Lebanese forces leader Samir Geagea.

The area is generally considered safe for foreigners in contrast to west Beirut where kidnappings have proved commonplace over the past four years.

Judicial sources said Prosecutor-General Munif Oweidat was sifting through information on the assault, the fourth against French nationals in five months.

Militia sources in Beirut said the French intelligence officer was robbed of documents when he was attacked, shortly after leaving a meeting with a senior Lebanese security official.

The French news agency, Agence France-Presse quoted well informed sources in Paris as saying Meurant, 27, worked for the French secret service.

His body remained at the morgue of the Hotel Dieu hospital in east Beirut pending arrangements to fly it to France.

Kuwait assails proposals to end Palestinian revolt

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Wednesday urged Palestinian leaders to reject proposals for quelling the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and considered them designed to frustrate the uprising.

Sheikh Jaber was addressing a delegation representing the Palestinian community in Kuwait, led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative, Avni Battash.

The group called on the emir to thank him for "Kuwait's continuous support to the Palestinian struggle and the current uprising," according to an official statement from the emir's court.

The statement quoted the emir as telling the delegation: "the proposals and solutions we hear about should not prevent us from rendering support to the revolution of the Palestinian people because they are designed to frustrate this revolution."

Arab diplomatic sources said the emir was referring to various proposals to end the protests and more specifically that which U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib carried to the region.

"Israel is trying to push forward these proposals in order to affect what is going on in the occupied territories. Such prop-

osed the peace process," the King said. "I reaffirmed to the U.S. envoy Jordan's stand based on rejection of the fait accompli policy and on support of any international efforts that would lead to holding the international peace conference under U.N. auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to secure Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, restore the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, and establish just and comprehensive peace in our region. This is the stand that Arab leaders unanimously agreed upon during the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman."

"Anyway," the King added, "we will judge the seriousness and credibility of the ideas which will be proposed by the U.S. administration in light of their compatibility with the Arab stand and the extent of their departure from previous U.S. stands."

Relying to a question on his talks with Mitterrand, the King said: "We discussed topics of importance to us and to our friends in France and the world and these topics are related to the

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. under Arab fire

KUWAIT (R) — The United States came under fire in the Arab World Wednesday for vetoing a U.N. Security Council resolution criticising Israeli action in the occupied territories.

Knwaifi Foreign Minister Sheik Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told reporters: "We regret that the U.S. used the veto, especially at this time, which affects American credibility and its ties with the Arab World."

He said the American position barred Palestinians from what the Israelis and others were allowed, even though the United States raised the banner of human rights.

The other 14 Security Council members approved the draft resolution calling on Israel to observe the Geneva convention regulating the wartime treatment of civilians under occupation.

In Saudi Arabia Al Yam newspaper said the United States "actively supported the criminal murderers" vetoing the draft resolution late Monday.

Al Bilad of Saudi Arabia also criticised Washington and said the veto gave Israel "all chances to carry out more massacres."

In Syria, commentators of offi-

(Continued on page 5)

Uprising spreads; casualties mount

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — At least nine more Palestinian protesters were shot and wounded in the occupied West Bank Wednesday as anti-occupation demonstrations spread to many villages and towns in the occupied territories

officer opened fire on protesters trying to burn down the town hall.

Doctors at Jerusalem's Mokassa hospital said they were treating six Palestinians shot and wounded in Doura.

In Silwad, near Ramallah, Arabs shot and injured three

Arabs after dozens of demonstrators ignored warning shots, the army said.

With protests reported around Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and parts of Arab Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities ordered all West Bank schools closed until further notice, sending some 250,000 schoolchildren.

Shamir travelled by helicopter to a hilltop settlement in the West Bank and declared: "Settlements in places such as this should strengthen, grow and prosper."

The right-wing leader urged the settlers to be strong.

In the West Bank, Israeli troops and border police shot and wounded nine Palestinians when they fired live ammunition to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators in several places.

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officer opened fire on protesters trying to burn down the town hall.

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Shamir pledged settlement

Among the settlers' leaders whom Shamir met Wednesday was local council head Pinhas Wallerstein, who personally shot dead a Palestinian protester after his car was stoned at a roadblock last month.

Wallerstein told Reuters he was satisfied that the prime minister fully supported the settlers.

Violence continues

A passenger train travelling from Haifa to Jerusalem was stoned near an Arab village Wednesday.

In Bethlehem, Palestinians threw stones at cars, injuring two Israelis, and Israeli drivers in the cars threw stones back at the Arabs, the army and Israel Radio reported. Israeli fired pistol shots at the Arabs, Israel Radio said.

Israeli soldiers imposed a curfew in Aida, a refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem seven kilometres south of Jerusalem.

An Israeli bus blocked the road, its windshield and a side window smashed. The driver said no one was hurt.

Reporters in Aida saw several dozen Arabs throw metal bars and fire cats'-eye marbles with slingshots at soldiers.

About 120,000 Palestinians were confined to their homes for the fourth successive day by curfews in Nablus, the biggest West Bank city, and two nearby refugee camps. The army also clamped curfews on Tulkarem and several other West Bank villages and refugee camps.

(Continued on page 5)

Dillon: W. Bank events reflect Arab frustration

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A high-ranking U.N. relief agency official said Wednesday indications showed that the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was a "spontaneous" culmination of "tension and frustration" of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Deputy Commissioner Robert Dillon, currently visiting Jordan, said people had spoken of "rising tension and frustration" over the months that preceded the revolt that began Dec. 9.

Dillon said he based his remarks on contacts with Palestinian people during his last visit to the occupied territories in August last year and on feed-back from UNRWA foreign and local staff there.

"It may be different (for others), but the state of affairs is a great source of worry for individual families," Dillon said. "They are worried that their children are on the street and exposed to danger at any minute," he said echoing similar concern voiced by UNRWA employees in the occupied territories.

In reply to a question, the UNRWA official said he could not know exactly whether the uprising owed its origins to external sources. "I really don't know. How can I know? All I know is that the basic spirit is spontaneous," he said. "It would be misleading to think that outsiders created the events. Perhaps outsiders are involved now." However, he said, judging from UNRWA workers contacts, before and after the revolt began, "the spirit is primarily largely spontaneous and home-grown."

Dillon said the overall services of UNRWA to Palestinians in the occupied territories were not totally blocked but were obstructed intermittently.

UNRWA trucks loaded with food and medical supplies stand by and exploit full moments between curfews to deliver supplies

to needed people, he said.

Dillon said UNRWA's 1987 budget had struck a balance and went slightly beyond the break-even point following four years of deficits which prompted the agency to dig into its reserves.

Though it is too early to forecast the situation for 1988, Dillon said, initial estimates indicate the agency will be able to meet its budget allocations if pledges by donor governments are fulfilled.

Several governments, including France, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates as well as the European Community (EC) have pledged additional financial support for the agency. These pledges involve assistance beyond their regular contributions. Libya announced Wednesday a contribution of undisclosed amount to UNRWA.

Individuals and groups in the occupied territories have contributed in cash and kind to UNRWA to back its operations there, Dillon said.

According to UNRWA statistics, local cash contributions totalled more than \$70,000 and 300 tonnes of commodities have been pledged or delivered to the agency for distribution.

In reply to a question on the situation in Palestinian refugee

Captors resist Syrian-Iranian pressure for Schray's release

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese kidnappers of West German engineer Ralph Schray are refusing to release him despite intense pressure from Syria and Iran, a west Beirut security source said Wednesday.

The source, close to negotiations for Schray's release, told Reuters the kidnappers were resisting pressure but Syria, which has 27,000 troops in Lebanon, still expected the West German to be freed.

It was not clear what Syria would do next, the source said.

He declined to comment on the possibility of Damascus taking tough action against the kidnappers, believed led by Abdul Hadi Hamadi, an official of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God).

Hamadi's younger brothers Abbas Ali and Mohammad Ali are in custody in West Germany. Abbas is on trial for the kidnapping last year of two West Germans in Beirut and Mohammad is charged with hijacking a Trans World Airlines (TWA) jet to Beirut in 1985.

Schray, 30, kidnapped a week ago in mainly Muslim west Beirut, had been expected to be freed quickly after both Syria and its ally Iran called for his release.

Syria's top military intelligence officer in Lebanon, Brigadier Gbazi Kenaan, personally

nied involvement in kidnapping.

Hamadi tried to smuggle message from jail

Meanwhile according to court testimony in Dusseldorf, West Germany, yesterday Mohammad Hamadi asked a fellow inmate to smuggle messages out of prison and to call relatives in Beirut to tell them not to free two West German hostages unless he was released.

The testimony was read to the court from a signed statement given to police last February by Hamadi's fellow-inmate, Gabriel Lapite.

"Tell my sister to tell my brother that I got a letter from a court in America. Tell them that if I am not released, then the two West Germans should also not be released," a signed statement from Lapite said.

However, Lapite, a Nigerian sentenced to four years on a drug-smuggling conviction, reportedly told the court that he could no longer remember details about conversations with Mohammad Hamadi.

In the testimony at the kidnapping trial of Mohammad Hamadi's brother, Abbas, Lapite also said he could not recall being

asked to telephone Hamadi's relatives in Beirut.

According to police documents, Lapite handed over to prison officials five letters written by Mohammad Hamadi to relatives and friends in West Germany and Beirut.

Lapite told police last February that he was asked by Mohammad Hamadi to telephone Hamadi's sister in Beirut and have her contact his older brother Abdul Hadi Hamadi to tell him not to release the West Germans.

Abbas Hamadi is accused of masterminding the kidnapping last year in a bid to force West Germany to release his younger brother.

Court officials said relatives of Lebanese-born businessman Rashid Mahroum are scheduled to testify about his contacts with the kidnappers. Mahroum for a time acted as a mediator between the West German government and the kidnappers.

The court officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said police were investigating possible links between Mahroum and the kidnappers.

The Munich-based illustrated magazine *Quick* said Tuesday that authorities suspect Mahroum may have helped the kidnappers.

Iranian missiles shoot past Gulf tanker

DUBAI (R) — A laden Gulf chemical tanker narrowly escaped disaster when an Iranian fighter launched missiles at it only hours before Tehran offered a deal to call off a planned offensive against Iraq.

Regional shipping sources said the fighter streaked down the port side of the 39,000-tonne Liberian flagged Petrobulk Pilot Tuesday and loosed off two missiles.

One exploded in the air and the second crashed harmlessly in the sea 25 miles off the small northern United Arab Emirates port of Mina Saqr, the sources said.

"It's a dramatic switch from (Iran's) usual gunboat retaliation for Iraqi strikes. I can tell you we don't like it," a Western oil company official told Reuters.

The Petrobulk Pilot bad earlier called at Dubai for routine servicing and was leaving the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz two days after loading at the Kuwaiti port of Mina Al Ahmadi.

The attacking plane was at first unidentified but a Western military source told Reuters it was Iranian.

The failed attack followed another abortive Iranian attempt Saturday to avenge a week-long Iraqi blitz on its oil exporting fleet.

Iranian gunboats attacked and set ablaze the 15,241-tonne Panama-flagged freighter *Mare 60* miles north of Bahrain before they rescued its crew of 22 after realising the vessel was trading out of Iran's own Bushire port.

Gulf diplomats and shipping sources say Iran's recently sporadic attempts to avenge Iraq's raids indicate both pressure from Western navies cooperating in the Gulf and signs of war weariness at home.

A U.S. source who asked not to be named said Abraham Sofer, the State Department's legal counsel, met with Fleischhauer and other secretariat officials in New York on Jan. 12 and planned to return for further discussions.

The headquarter's agreement says that any dispute about how to apply or interpret the treaty which is not resolved "by negotiation or other agreed mode of settlement" goes to a three-person arbitration tribunal.

A source close to U.S. intelligence in Washington told Reuters: "There's a certain amount of expansion on both sides. I think Iran is finally getting the message on the U.N. resolution."

"For (Ozal), Davos means a

Morocco offers bases for U.S. F-16s

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States hopes to find another European base for its 401st Tactical Fighter Wing after it was evicted from Spain, but the first offer to give the 72 F-16 fighter jets a home has come from Portugal.

Morocco's ambassador to the United States said Tuesday night that his country would like to take a place in NATO strategy and be considered a "privileged ally" of the West European defence group.

"Morocco has always been dedicated to the sense of peace and liberty, and will be proud to

continue to do just that, today, and tomorrow," Ambassador M'Hammed Bargach said at a dinner at the Moroccan embassy for a U.S. congressional delegation planning a trip next week to the Northern African nation Portugal.

Spain recently demanded that the 401st be removed from a base there within three years.

The United States and its NATO allies have been reviewing the redeployment of the planes since then.

Other U.S. officials have said

the United States is narrowing its search to Italy, which also would like to see the planes remain in Europe.

Sweden condemns Israeli 'brutal conduct'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sweden has condemned Israel's "ruthless treatment" of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and has called for an international Middle East peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A Swedish Foreign Ministry statement received in Amman Tuesday called "shocking" the "brutal conduct" of the Israeli army in the occupied West Bank

and Gaza Strip.

"Reports of the ruthless treatment of the Palestinian civilian population by Israeli soldiers and of the soldiers' deliberate beatings of young protesters prove that continued occupation is untenable. Brutality and cruelty only aggravate the situation and make it still more difficult to reach a solution," the statement said.

"The problems in the Middle East must be solved by peaceful means. Israel's right to secure and recognised borders must be respected, and the Palestinians' right to self-determination must be realised. It is high time that the proposal for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations be implemented," the statement added.

Dutch back call for truce in West Bank, Gaza

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands Wednesday backed a call by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for a six-month truce in the Israeli-occupied territories and said it should serve as a first step towards peace talks.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Brook told parliament a cooling off period was badly needed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip where at least 42

Palestinians have died in almost two months of clashes with Israeli troops.

Mubarak has called for a six-month moratorium on violence in the occupied territories and a halt to new Israeli settlements in the areas where some 65,000 Jews have moved in among 1.5 million Palestinians since the 1967 Middle East war.

In a letter to parliament's Fore-

Ozal to capitalise on successful talks

ANKARA (R) — Talks with Greece won Turkey's Prime Minister Turgut Ozal domestic goodwill which is expected to power a fresh onslaught on his country's economic problems and help his political aims.

His meetings in Switzerland with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, only 10 months after their countries nearly went to war over rights in the Aegean Sea, have been hailed by a normally critical press and many politicians.

The two leaders agreed in Davos to improve ties, including setting up a crisis hotline, and vowed to avoid war over problems that have dogged their countries for three decades.

"I evaluate the encounter as a beginning which could lead to a long-lasting solution (with Greece)," said Erdal Inonu, head

of the main opposition Social Democratic Populist Party.

Meanwhile Greek opposition leader Constantine Mitsotakis Tuesday welcomed the agreement.

Mitsotakis, president of the conservative New Democracy Party, said in a London speech: "We concur with the opening of the bilateral talks (between Prime Ministers Andreas Papandreou of Greece and Turgut Ozal of Turkey)."

Mitsotakis told Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs the talks marked "a good beginning of a dialogue," especially as Papandreou's Socialist government had now accepted a policy urged by New Democracy for years.

U.N. may ask tribunal to resolve row over PLO mission

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations may ask an arbitration tribunal to resolve a dispute with the United States over a new law that would close the Palestine Liberation Organization's U.N. mission, diplomats said.

Both the United Nations and the U.S. State Department say the 1947 headquarters agreement obliges the United States to let the PLO mission operate.

But Congress appeared to ignore this treaty between the United States and the United Nations when it passed the act, which orders the mission closed by March 22.

The legislation "creates difficulties for everyone concerned," conceded Bruce Rashkow, the state department's assistant legal adviser for U.N. affairs.

President Ronald Reagan signed the measure on Dec. 22,

1987. Since then, high-ranking U.N. and U.S. officials have been trying to find a graceful way out of the diplomatic dilemma.

"The United States has to find a way to spare itself a confrontation with the international community," Zehdi Terzi, the PLO's U.N. observer, said Tuesday.

The problem comes at a time when U.S. prestige and influence at the United Nations are already suffering, primarily because Congress has refused for two years in a row to appropriate enough money to pay all of the United States' to the world body.

The United States, the U.N.'s biggest contributor, now owes \$252.8 million, a debt that has plunged the United Nations into a serious fiscal crisis.

If U.S. and U.N. officials cannot negotiate a solution to the PLO problem, it could become the first dispute to go to arbitration.

The arbitration clause of the

headquarters agreement says that any dispute about how to apply or interpret the treaty which is not resolved "by negotiation or other agreed mode of settlement" goes to a three-person arbitration tribunal.

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Home news

Cabinet approves trade agreement with Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved the minutes of the Joint Jordanian-Moroccan Higher Committee meetings concluded here last Wednesday.

The approval came during a Cabinet session held Wednesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thaouqan Hindawi.

The minutes provide for increasing the volume of trade and economic exchange between Jordan and Morocco by \$15 million.

Also Wednesday, the Cabinet approved an agreement to be signed between Jordan and Australia to boost bilateral trade and economic links.

Under the agreement a joint Jordanian-Australian committee

will be formed to explore ways to promote these ties.

The Cabinet also formed the Jordanian side to the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Sudanese Economic Committee to be held in Khartoum next month. Minister of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Mohammad Al Saqqaf will lead Jordan's side to the meetings aimed to boost bilateral economic relations.

In addition, the Cabinet decided that Jordan should continue its contribution to World Food Programme (WFP) projects for the next two years. WFP finances a number of development projects in Jordan, including a scheme for developing highlands and pastures, and a nutrition project for schools.

Kuwaiti education minister visits Yarmouk, JUST

IRBID (Petra) — Kuwaiti Minister of Education Anwar Abdulla Nouri Wednesday visited Yarmouk University and met with President Mohammad Hamdan.

Accompanied by Minister of Higher Education Nasseredine Al Assad, Nouri visited the Natural History Museum, and met with a number of deans and department directors.

A university spokesman said Hamdan briefed the Kuwaiti minister on the university's pro-

grammes and plans, and stressed the need for promoting cooperation between Yarmouk University and Kuwait University.

Hamdan presented Nouri with the university shield as gift to commemorate the visit.

Later, the Kuwaiti minister called at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and met with President Kamel Ajlouni, who outlined the university's development and activi-

Minute signed after talks on first part of Japanese loans

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Japan Wednesday signed the minutes of negotiations held here over the past four days on spending part of the \$300-million Japanese soft loan on a number of Jordanian development projects.

According to the minutes, a total of JD 25 million will be channelled to Jordan through the Japanese Fund for Overseas Economic Development. The loan will finance the construction of

roads, dams and irrigation facilities, in cooperation with the Jordan Valley Authority and the Water Authority of Jordan.

The two sides agreed that work on these projects would begin before the end of the year.

The minutes were signed by Ministry of Planning acting Secretary-General Nabil Swiss and a representative of the Japanese fund.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Wijdan briefs Hammouri on arts

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Al Hammouri Wednesday called at the Royal Society of Fine Arts, where he met with its president, Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali. Princess Wijdan explained the society's activities and goals, as well as the purpose for establishing the society's national museum. Hammouri stressed the importance of cooperation between the ministry and the society in order to deepen Jordan's cultural links with Arab and foreign countries.

Qatanani to take part in UNRWA meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs will be taking part in a meeting to be held in Vienna next week to discuss the financial situation, current activities and future plans of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA). Secretary-General Dr. Ahmad Qatanani will represent the ministry at the meeting.

Artefacts uncovered at ancient Aqaba reveal life in early Islamic port town

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibition of archaeological artefacts excavated at the early and medieval Islamic site of Ayla, ancient Aqaba, which opened at the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute earlier last week to an enthusiastic reception, will be on show in Amman and Aqaba later this year, the excavator of Ayla and the organiser of the exhibition, Dr. Donald Whitcomb, said Tuesday during an international telephone press conference organised by the United States Information Service.

He told a gathering of local journalists and archaeologists here that over 200 people braved Chicago's fierce winter weather to attend the opening of the exhibition, which included a slide lecture on the excavations at Ayla in 1986 and 1987.

Whitcomb said that the Ayla excavation is particularly important because of what it will teach us about life, commerce and social customs in an early and



General view of the Aqaba excavation, showing the city wall and two towers flanking the main gate.

(All photos and drawings courtesy of Dr. Donald Whitcomb, University of Chicago).

being so well preserved, with its town walls and some buildings still standing over 4.5 metres high.

Whitcomb believes the town was established during the Caliphate of Othman, around 650 A.D., making it "one of the earliest Islamic town foundations in the entire Middle East, which has been well preserved because it was not built over in later periods."

The town flourished for some

500 years, reaching its peak of prosperity as a trading port in the Abbasid and Fatimid periods, before being abandoned in the early 12th century A.D., soon after the Crusaders occupied it. One of the valuable aspects of the site is what it reveals about cultural interchanges between the early Islamic civilisation and the preceding Byzantine and Greco-

Roman cultures — particularly in terms of urbanism and town planning, Whitcomb said.

The earliest town at Ayla would have been inhabited by a

combination of the local people who were there under Byzantine rule, and the Muslim conquerors who arrived, with their cultural traditions, from the area of the Hijaz. As we know little of pre- and early Islamic towns in the Hijaz, the well-preserved remains at Aqaba will prove a valuable source of first-hand information.

The excavation has also shed important light on regional and international trading links, and has unearthed pottery, stone vessels and other objects from such places as China, Iraq, Iran, Egypt and Syria. In its earliest days, the town of Ayla seemed to have strong links with Egypt, which administered the region of south Jordan. A particular kind of 8th century A.D. glazed pottery known as Coptic glazed ware has been found at Aqaba; previously, it had been known only from the Egyptian port of Alexandria.

In other cases, the new Muslim culture introduced variations on established customs, as indicated by the presence of many typical Byzantine pottery vessels which suddenly had a decorative glaze applied to them in the early Islamic period.

Some pottery vessels at Aqaba were paralleled by wares in north Jordan, however, indicating that there were strong regional variations in the land of Jordan during the early and medieval Islamic years. Whitcomb's overall conclusion to date is that, "ancient Aqaba was one of the crossroads of the Middle Eastern/Red Sea maritime trade network, linking

Fragments of a limestone column and marble chancel screen from a Byzantine church at Ayla.



Drawing of a man with a turban, on a lustre ware sherd made in Fatimid Egypt, excavated at Aqaba.

Youth team exchanges with Indonesia to increase as part of new protocol

By Mun' em Fakhouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Indonesia will today sign a protocol on bilateral cooperation in sports and youth affairs.

The protocol which will be signed by Indonesian Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Abdul Ghafour Edris and Minister of Youth Awad Kleifat covers an exchange of youth and sports teams between the two countries, as well as coaches to offer training to teams in both countries.

The Indonesian minister disclosed the information at a press conference held Wednesday at the Marriott Hotel.

Edris said that he was looking forward to greater cooperation between Jordan and Indonesia in youth affairs, as a part of deepening relations between the two Islamic countries.

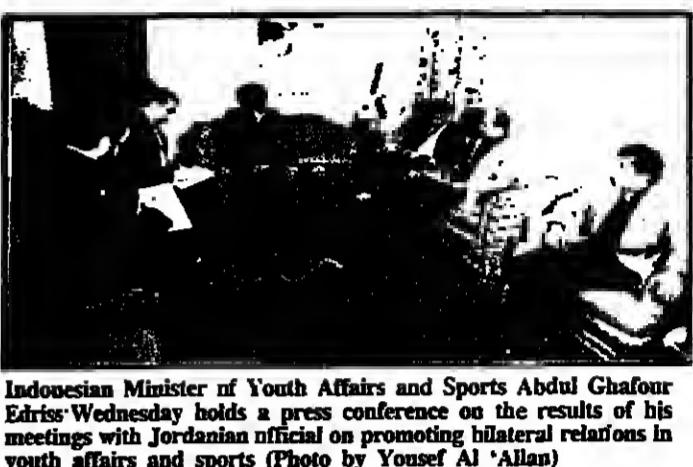
Indonesia, like Jordan, is member of the Federation of Islamic Solidarity Games, and will join Jordan and other Asian countries in taking part in the upcoming Seoul Olympic Games, he said, noting that the federation's teams would avoid playing matches with teams from South Africa and Israel.

Edris said he would extend an

invitation to Kleifat to visit Indonesia for more discussions on promoting bilateral ties.

Earlier Wednesday, the Indonesian minister visited the University of Jordan and was briefed by President Abdul Salam Al Majali on the university's development and cultural and sports programmes.

The Indonesian minister also visited the Martyr's Monument and inspected items on display inside the building which reflect the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.



Indonesian Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Abdul Ghafour Edris Wednesday holds a press conference on the results of his meetings with Jordanian officials on promoting bilateral relations in youth affairs and sports (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Regional conference to address problems in development of medical education

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A regional medical education conference is scheduled to open here on Feb. 14, during which Jordan will present a working paper outlining factors hindering the development of medical education and ways to overcome these problems, according to Dr. Qandil Shaker, rapporteur of the preparatory committee for the conference.

The Jordanian side was led by Civil Aviation Authority Director-General Mahmoud Balqaz, while the Egyptian side was led by Egyptian Civil Aviation Corporation Chairman of the Board Othman Ziko.

The agreement, included in the meeting's minutes, provided for other technical measures aimed at promoting air transport cooperation between the two countries.

Sheikh Khayyat said contributions to the Palestinians living under Israeli rule could be channelled through the Zakat Fund (alms to the poor) sponsored by the ministry.

The Zakat Fund has so far contributed, at a rate of JD 50 a month, to 65 needy families in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip who lost their breadwinners in the current uprising against Israeli oppression. This aid given in accordance with directives from His Majesty King Hussein.

Sheikh Khayyat also said that Jordanian universities would soon launch a campaign to raise funds for students from the occupied territories who have been cut off from their parents and relatives, leaving them without means of support. Teachers, students and university employees will take part in the campaign, according to the minister.

The minister said that contribution to the Zakat Fund was a religious duty for all Muslims, and that it was

institutions, in addition to outpatient clinics at university hospitals.

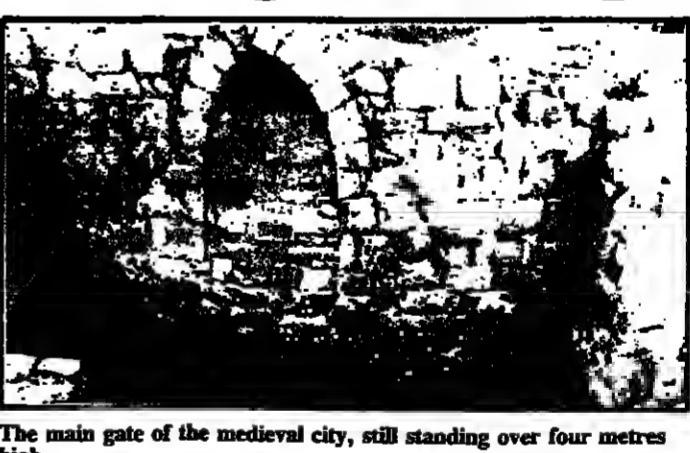
Abu Dahab added that national medical institutions constituted "the national network for primary health care" and allowed for case studies rather than theoretical studies. He also said that it was important to promote research and work on common diseases.

Brigadier Dr. Hayel Ujeilat, paediatric surgeon with the Royal Medical Services, said that in medical schools where admission is based only on academic achievement, there should be a reassessment of the admission process to include personal traits which are a prerequisite for a successful doctor. He noted that this point would be proposed for discussion at the conference.

On the importance of integration between different medical education stages, Dr. Hassan Abu Sehir from the Jordanian Medical Association said that basic medical education should take maximum advantage of each

Jordan to attend Baghdad theatre festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Culture and National Heritage Dr. Mohammad Hammouri will lead a ministry delegation to the Baghdad Theatre Festival which will be held in the Iraqi capital on Feb. 10. The Ministry of Tourism will participate in the International Tourism to be held in Paris on Feb. 18.



The main gate of the medieval city, still standing over four metres high.

commercial centres in Egypt and the Mediterranean region with their counterparts along the Indian Ocean, the Gulf and further east to India and China."

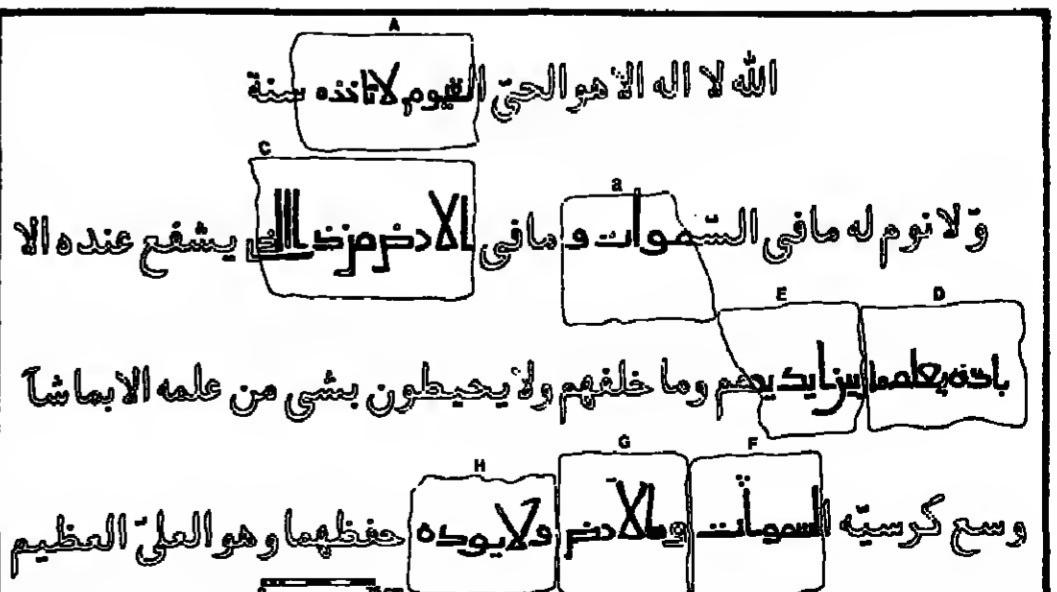
Whitcomb will continue his excavations at Aqaba later this year, in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.

He may survey a wider area around the excavated site — which is along the beachfront, across the street from the Miramar Hotel and the JETT bus station — to search for other remains of ancient settlements from the Islamic or earlier periods, such as roads, inscrip-

tions or waystations along the major routes in and out of the city.

The Ayla excavation has been supported financially and/or administratively by several parties, including the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, the Tourism Ministry, the Aqaba Region Authority, the U.S. National Geographic Society, the American Centre for Oriental Research in Amman, the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, and the United States Agency for International Development which provided the bulk of the funding.

A small catalogue for the exhibition was published by the Jordanian publishers Al Kubra, and can be bought by mail from the Oriental Institute bookshop. An expanded version of the catalogue, also encompassing other antiquities sites in Aqaba, will be published and sold in Amman by Al Kubra later this month.



Drawing of the monumental inscription above the excavated city gate, with parts of the Ayat al Kursi verse from the Koran.

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Learning new tricks from an old dog

THERE is only one element of surprise in reports from West Germany that a state prosecutor is probing a case of clandestine supply of designs and a prototype of a nuclear submarine to South Africa through Israel: that the authorities got wise to the illegal deal, given the cunning, sometimes unique, methods that the racist regime in South Africa and the Zionist state use around the world to cover their tracks. Perhaps we would not be off the mark to presume that the revelations that South Africa has finally laid its hands on an actual prototype and specific designs of a nuclear sub were actually "leaked" to the authorities as part of a clever plot to remind the world of the nuclear capabilities of the apartheid regime in Pretoria, and, by extension, those of Israel which has always been generous enough to act as a transit point for Western technology to South Africa.

But what had remained a secret until now is that part of the repayment from Pretoria appears to have included advanced methods of inflicting grave injury without using guns, and failsafe stalling of mines, as we see today in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. No doubt, these techniques were used, perfected and mastered by the Pretoria regime and its agents in their ruthless campaign against black protesters seeking an end to the racial separation and the yoke of occupation imposed on them by aliens in their land. Of course, it is only natural that South Africa rises to the occasion in Israel's hour of need, offering its expertise and experience, whose results we see today in the form of broken Arab limbs and fractured bones in West Bank and Gaza hospitals. After all, what are friends for?

Still, we can take heart from the realisation that it is virtually impossible for the Israelis to successfully implement their version of yet another sinister aspect of the oppressive South African tactics: playing off the oppressed against each other. Our brothers and sisters in the occupied territories have shown beyond any doubt that they are united in their uprising, regardless of religion and class, to the extent that Israeli Arabs have rallied behind them in the common struggle. It is only a matter of time before the Israelis will try to emulate their South African mentors and take a swing at the Arab steadfastness. It is incumbent upon the Arab and Palestinian leaders inside and outside the occupied territories to ensure that nothing and no one is allowed to tamper with this unity, in which lies the key to the ultimate success of the Palestinian revolt.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Europeans condemn Israel

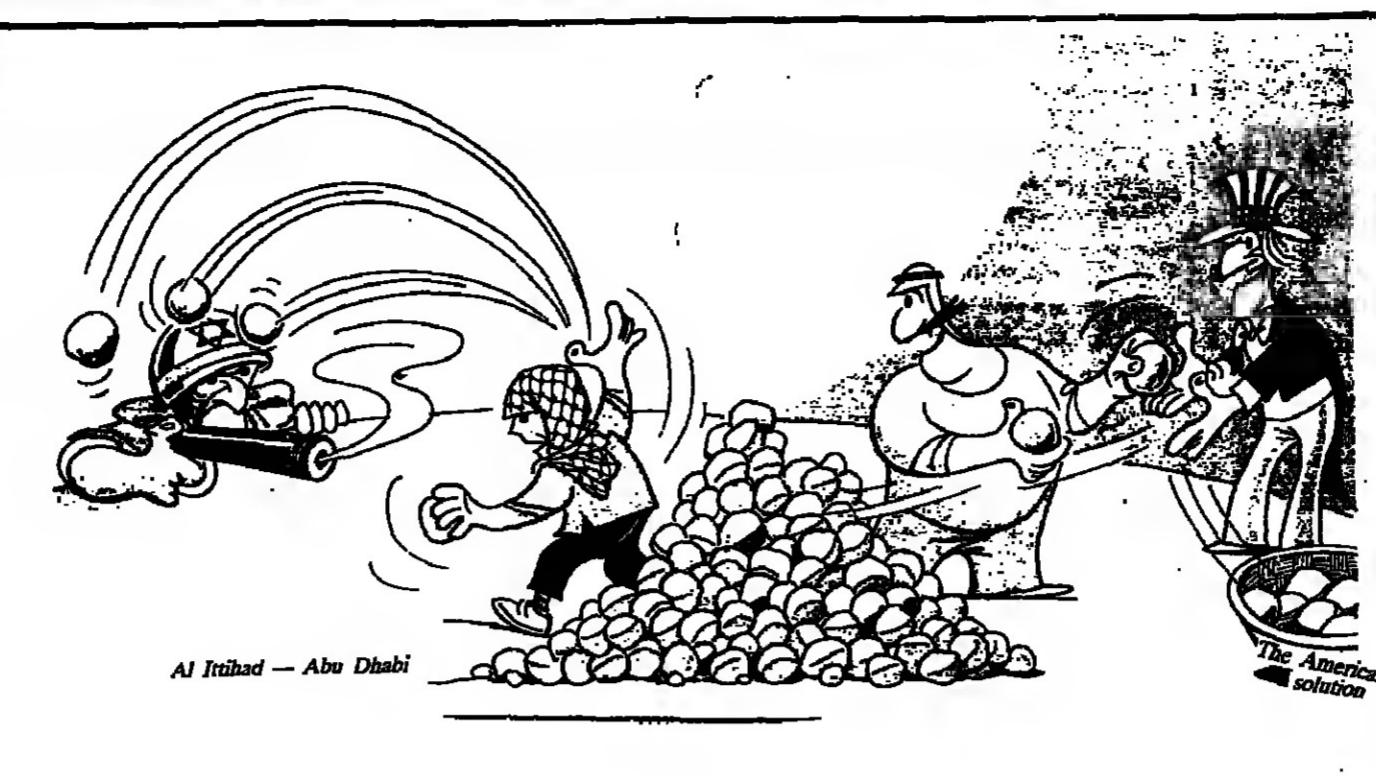
THE European Parliament has issued a declaration, expressing condemnation of Israel's inhuman practices against the Arab people of Palestine. Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayed Tuesday received a copy of the declaration from the European Parliament, reflecting the European people's views as to the uprising in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's practices and killing of people under their rule. The declaration demanded that the Israeli authorities immediately halt all such practices and policies and end all measures that violate human rights and the Geneva Convention. The European Parliament announced that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are occupied territory and that Israel's policies against their residents violate international laws. Continued occupation, the declaration said, is against the indigenous population's will and against their future aspirations and their future existence on their own land, and above all, represents an extended aggression against Arab territory. The European Parliament's declaration is of paramount importance since it reaffirms the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and their right to resist occupation. The declaration calls for the re-establishment of peace based on total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territory and an end to Israeli terrorism. This declaration is in stark contrast with the U.S. stand which supports Israel against the rights of the Arab people, and Washington's alliance with the Israeli occupation forces.

Al Dustour: U.S. vetoes Palestinians, Arabs

THE U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's actions against the defenceless Palestinians, clearly exposes the true image of Washington's policies with regard to the Middle East region. The veto clearly displayed Washington's disregard of the Arabs and their relations with the United States. The U.S. opted for the veto in the face of all nations which condemned Israel's practices and inhuman policies against the Palestinians. By vetoing the resolution, the U.S. has thus showed its disrespect of the international community's will and all world values and principles. The U.S. veto which came amidst an escalation of Israeli oppression in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is bound to encourage the Israeli leadership to pursue its iron fist policy and to go ahead with plans to kill people and demolish homes. The veto was clearly part of the U.S. policy towards the Middle East, maintained over the past years, and came as a natural result of the U.S.-Israeli alliance and in view of a weak Arab stand. The Arabs have been appealing to the U.S. to stop Israel's practices and bring about peace, but they have always been rebuffed by Washington which continues to disregard their feelings and their requests. We are deeply angered and dismayed at Washington's attitude and we urge all Arab governments to reconsider their present position, so as to come up with measures that would put an end to Washington's support for Israel and its aggression.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. veto

THE U.S. veto of U.N. Security Council resolution demanding an end to Israel's oppression and criminal actions manifests Washington's total commitment to supporting Israel's actions and aggression on the Palestinian people. The Arab Nation considers those who condone such action on equal footing with those who commit the crimes. The veto came in the face of worldwide condemnation of Israel's practices in the Arab lands and as the Israelis escalate their terrorist actions to quell the uprising and to stifle the spirit of Arab resistance. The veto represented an American weapon employed to counter the will of the international community, and to oppose any moves for re-establishing justice and peace. The veto means that U.S. support for Israel will not stop but will rather increase, and that the U.S. will continue to provide necessary cover for Israel's crimes and atrocities and will encourage the Jewish state to pursue its present policies.



U.S. proposals: something for everyone?

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — New U.S. proposals designed to bring Arabs and Israelis to the negotiating table offer a little something for everyone, but they may not be enough for anyone.

The aim had the immediate effect of arousing the interest of both halves of Israel's coalition government, which have been deadlocked on peacemaking strategy.

But speculation about new momentum had no apparent impact on protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where fresh violence erupted Monday with two Arabs shot to death in clashes with Israeli troops.

The vagueness of the new U.S. initiative appeared to be its strength: It has not attracted any rejections thus far. Once details are spelled out, divisions are likely to emerge.

If Jordan agrees to the new approach, U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz may visit the region later this month, according to a senior Israeli official who spoke on condition of not being identified.

Israeli officials cited two new elements: High-level U.S. involvement after a long period of quiescence and an accelerated timetable.

Based on talks between Shultz

and Charles Hill and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' aide Nurni Novick last week, informed sources said, the U.S. plan envisioned a three-phase process with a one-year timetable.

Peres "very satisfied"

Peres said on army radio he was "very satisfied" by the suggested pace.

"The American proposal is talking about reaching a temporary agreement within a few weeks, an international conference within two or three months and in the third stage an attempt to reach a permanent arrangement," he said.

The first step would be implementing self-rule for the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied lands, the Israeli sources said, confirming an outline of the U.S. proposals in the liberal Haaretz newspaper.

Most powers for a self-governing authority were worked out in two years of U.S.-mediated talks between Egypt and Israel, and the sources said implementing them could be underway by September.

An international forum would then convene to give its blessing to the temporary arrangement.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The same forum would launch the final phase of negotiations on a permanent settlement by the end of the year.

The aim is to bridge the seemingly unbridgeable gap between Jordan and Israel's Likud-led government.

Jordan seeks an international conference for the residents of the territories seized in the 1967 Middle East war. Jordan envisions a territory-for-peace trade.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir desires a quick fix that grants limited autonomy in place of Israeli military rule but avoids returning land that his party considers part of Israel.

The proposals have received qualified acceptance from Israel and Egypt. The big question is whether Jordan and the Palestinians will accept any negotiating that starts with a new version of the 1978 Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt.

Speaking in Amman, Information Minister Hani Khasawneh welcomed last weekend's exploratory visit by U.S. envoy Philip Habib.

"We hope the American administration will be able to realise the importance and the need for convening an international conference," he said.

He said.

The question was whether Jordan would see in the U.S. ideas enough of an international umbrella to meet Arab demands for an international conference.

Jordan refused to join U.S.-sponsored autonomy talks in 1979. The Arabs demanded statehood for the Palestinians.

"(The Americans) are talking about an independent government for the residents of the territories. They don't want to call it autonomy so that it won't seem to wave the red flag... before Jordan," Peres said on Israel army radio.

Specific issues have been left unresolved, such as who would control water resources and provide security. Other questions include whether Arabs in Jerusalem would be included in the self-rule scheme.

Shamir, leader of the conservative bloc in the Israeli government, has opposed Peres' attempts to engage Jordan by accepting an international conference. He has argued it would be a biased forum.

But Shamir has begun to show some flexibility, saying he would accept Soviet-American sponsorship of talks, would not oppose an international forum giving its blessing to agreements and would agree to some changes in the autonomy scheme.

Palestinians expected to step up revolt

By Bernard Edinger
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians, convinced that seven weeks of revolt against Israel have stimulated international efforts for a peace settlement, are expected to step up protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arab commentators said on Monday.

"Less than two months of rock-throwing accomplished more than the Arab World, with all its military might, was able to do in 20 years and everyone knows this," said Maher Abu Khater, editor of the Al Fajr English-language weekly.

"The mood in the streets is that it is two months of protests gets America to press (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir for Palestinian self-rule, then four months will bring a U.N. force and a year will see Israel pulling out in disgust as it did from Lebanon," he told Reuters.

"There were doubts a week ago, but news of international moves for a settlement finally strengthened the militants who say they settle for nothing less than full Israeli withdrawal," he said.

Protests rose sharply after last week's partial unveiling of a U.S. plan for limited Palestinian self-rule in the areas occupied since 1967. They reached a pitch on Monday in the West Bank, where there were widespread protests and two demonstrators were shot dead.

The killings were the first since January 15 and came after a fortnight when protests were rapidly decreasing.

But details of the U.S. plan, as far as they were known, appeared to infuriate Palestinians more than appease them, the commentators said.

Based on Camp David

Israeli officials said the self-

rule plan was based largely on the 1978 Camp David agreements, rejected by most of the Arab World, which called for Jordan and Israel to share security responsibilities in an interim period before a final settlement.

"We understand the plan calls

for Jordanian and Egyptian involvement in administering Palestinian areas at a time when Palestinians have never felt as powerful and unarmed," said academic Mahdi Abdul Hadi.

Abdul Hadi, chairman of the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs and a former adviser to Crown Prince Hassan, said: "In my view, it will be political suicide for Amman or Cairo to even consider the U.S. plan."

The Palestinians feel their own efforts only are paying off and their message to Arab states who might want to assume any responsibility here is that they are not wanted, he said.

Sam Nusseibeh, a university

professor and occasional spokesman for Western-educated supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), predicted the uprisings would not only continue but pass into even more violent phases.

"I can't say what will happen because I don't know, but one feels when talking to stone-throwers that they want to escalate the nature of the struggle even more," he said. Nusseibeh agreed that 20 years of Israeli security sweeps had virtually cleared the occupied areas of hidden firearms.

But there has been a rash of petrol bomb attacks on Israeli vehicles, including one last Wednesday which left a Jewish West Bank settler in a critical condition.

"I think that sooner or later the United States and Israel will recognise that they will have no other option than to talk to the PLO and I believe that what they will do," he said.

A consensus in British policy

By Anthony Parsons

The writer is former British ambassador to the United Nations. This article is reprinted from *Middle East International*, London.

IN SOME important respects the post-war consensus on foreign and defence policy between the two major British political parties has broken down, although not to the same extent as they are divided on domestic issues. For example, a wide gap separated Conservative and Labour on the British independent nuclear deterrent; on American nuclear bases in Britain, on sanctions against South Africa and on overseas aid. Fortunately these divergences of view, as I intend to demonstrate, do not extend to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

In spite of the policy of the Attlee government towards Palestine in the late 1940's, which excited bitter hostility amongst Zionists, and the contrasting policy of Sir Anthony Eden towards pan-Arab nationalism as exemplified by the invasion of Egypt in 1956, Arab political folklore has long characterised the Labour Party as being basically "pro-Israel".

"(The Americans) are talking about an independent government for the residents of the territories. They don't want to call it autonomy so that it won't seem to wave the red flag... before Jordan," Peres said on Israel army radio.

This convergence of view is valuable in the formulation and conduct of policy. The Israelis, with which we are all familiar, reflecting their realisation of the urgent need for progress towards a just and lasting peace in this most dangerous area of the world. To argue in terms of this party being "Zionist influence" or of that party responding to the blandishments of "Foreign Office Arabs" hungering for fat contracts is as unhelpful as it is inaccurate.

I would not describe the policies of British government and opposition as being either "pro-Israel" or "pro-Arab", rather as being "pro-peace" for reasons with which we are all familiar, reflecting their realisation of the urgent need for progress towards a just and lasting peace in this most dangerous area of the world. To argue in terms of this party being "Zionist influence" or of that party responding to the blandishments of "Foreign Office Arabs" hungering for fat contracts is as unhelpful as it is inaccurate.

This convergence of view is valuable in the formulation and conduct of policy. The Israelis, for that matter the Arabs, may resent lectures from outsiders but, conversely, neither, particularly the Israelis, has hesitated over the years to project their preoccupations into the domestic politics of interested states — the United States being the classic example. In this context, it is easier for a democratic government to pursue a consistent and firm policy when it can be confident that every move will not provoke a storm of opposition across the parliamentary divide.

From now on I run the risk of repeating what I have said before in this publication and elsewhere. So be it. My starting point is that the situation is too dangerous to be allowed to fester because of paralysis induced by the run up to the American presidential elections or the forthcoming elections in Israel. We have been over that ground many, many times. Britain and its European partners should continue to urge on Israel and the United States the need to

convince the international conference throughout the following period of Labour government from 1974-79 with the addition in 1977 of formulations in a European Community statement referring to "legitimate aspirations" (my italics) of the Palestinians.

I believe this remained the British position throughout the period of Labour government from 1974-79 with the addition in 1977 of formulations in a European Community statement referring to "legitimate aspirations" (my italics) of the Palestinians.

Another important bridge was crossed in June 1980 with the now famous Venice Declaration of the European Community. This stated *inter alia* that "the Palestinian people... must... exercise fully their right to self-determination". This declaration has been reaffirmed on many occasions.

On other aspects of the problem, Labour and Conservative governments have on countless occasions over the past 20 years reiterated their commitment to Israeli security and to Israel's right to live in peace behind recognised boundaries. By the same token, both have urged on the Arabs the renunciation of violence and the explicit recognition of Israel's right to exist. On the specific questions arising out of Security Council Resolution 242, e.g. Israeli withdrawal, the future of Jerusalem, international guarantees, the nature of a peace agreement etc., I do not believe that there is any significant difference of opinion between the two parties.

In his recent and highly publicised visit to Israel and the occupied territories, a minister at the Foreign Office, Mr. David Mellor, reaffirms the government's position on many of these questions, including support for Palestinian self-determination. Speaking in Amman Jan. 4, Mr. Gerald Kaufman, Labour shadow foreign secretary, stated that the Labour Party's objectives were security for Israel and self-determination for the Palestinians. He went on to say that the only logical basis for a settlement was "the continuation of the state of Israel as a Jewish homeland containing a properly enfranchised Arab minority together with a Palestinian entity, with proper, and acceptable, arrangements made for self determination and in which Jews are free to live if they accept the new arrangements." I doubt whether government ministers would quarrel with that. Both the minis-

ters would capitalise on their improved relationship and agree in advance that their common objective is progress towards a peaceful settlement, thus reducing the risk of dangerous confrontation. This may sound like a platitude but it still have merits of the 1969 Four Power talks in New York when the United States and the Soviet Union (even in the age of detente) simply acted as lawyers advocating the rigid positions of their respective clients. A repetition of that kind of thing will get nobody anywhere except for propagandists gains and losses.

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AMMAN JORDAN

Aspirin: A headache for science

Health hopes and drug shares have soared after news of an American breakthrough in heart disease treatment (Jordan Times Feb. 2). But British researchers are deeply concerned. David Leppard from The Times reports.

THE TELEPHONE rang in the offices of the Aspirin Foundation early last Friday. The caller was not one of the foundation's many drug manufacturing members. He was an analyst from Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, and he was asking an unusual question — why was the price of Reckitt and Colman shares rising so rapidly when the rest of the London stock market was so slow? The answer was simple: Reckitt and Colman makes Dis-

The drug company was one of many benefiting from the announcement last week in the United States that healthy people could almost halve the risk of heart attacks by taking an aspirin tablet every two days.

Reaction to the statement by Dr. Charles Hennekens of Harvard University Medical School, had been even more marked in America. After it was announced that thousands of people would be saved from heart attacks, health-conscious middle-aged Americans flocked to their chemists to buy the miracle drug. Drug retailers were euphoric.

"Sales are up 15 per cent but the big boom is still ahead of us," said Eli Cohen, president of Duane Reade, one of New York's biggest drug retail chains. "Aspirins are going to be taken like vitamins."

Cohen's reaction was mirrored on Wall Street where shares in Sterling and Bristol Myers, two of the multi-national pharmaceutical giants, rocketed.

The research which caused this boost for share prices and health hopes was begun by Hennekens in 1982. He and his team observed the effects of aspirin on 22,000 male doctors — half of them taking a placebo — aged between 40 and 84. None of them had any previous history of heart attack or stroke.

However, at the hastily summoned press conference in Washington last week, Hennekens and his team made the astonishing announcement that an aspirin every other day could reduce the risk of a healthy person having a heart attack by 47 per cent.

The Harvard researchers were so confident they took the unpre-

cedented step of halting the study two years earlier than planned, saying they were releasing the results immediately to save lives.

They argued that withholding the findings until 1990 would be unethical, as the 11,000 doctors who were not already taking aspirin would be put at risk.

However, Hennekens' announcement has not been greeted everywhere. Since the news broke last week stock waves have reverberated round Britain's more conservative medical establishment.

Indeed, one significant group of British scientists who have been carrying out similar research work since 1979 under Professor Sir Richard Doll, of Oxford University, have taken umbrage at the Americans' breaking cover so early and with such a blockbuster.

Although the British scientists are ready to accept that aspirin is good for you and that regular doses can reduce the risk of heart disease and strokes, they are extremely concerned that the Americans have glossed over one very big catch: That the only people to benefit are those who have already been struck down by a stroke or a heart attack. In these cases the risk can be reduced by about 30 per cent.

The British camp says that for those who have not suffered the pain and anguish of arteries clogged with blood, the likely benefits of regular aspirin doses are so minimal they would be outweighed by a much increased chance of brain haemorrhage.

What makes them so anxious is that the American announcement could be misinterpreted and lead to healthy people suffering aspirin's potentially lethal side effects. This worry is fuelled because it is already known that some groups, like children and people with stomach disorders, should avoid the drug.

The aspirin story begins more than 2,000 years ago with Hippocrates, the Greek father of medicine. He first tried out a hew made from the leaves of the white willow tree to help ease the pain of child birth.

Chemists later discovered that willow leaves contained salicin, a substance closely related to aspirin.

In 1758 Edward Stone, an obscure English clergyman from Chipping Norton, found that the hew he concocted by boiling willow bark in water could cure a fever raging among his parishioners.

A chemical equivalent of Stone's vegetable extract was patented in 1899 by Fritz Hoff-

mann, a scientist working for the German company, Bayer.

However, it was not until the 1970s that Sir John Vane, a chemist working at St. Bartholomew's hospital in London, discovered how it actually worked: By inhibiting the work of chemicals, called prostaglandins, in the blood, aspirin interrupted the communication of pain from parts of the body to the brain.

More importantly, Vane discovered that aspirin could prevent tiny particles in the blood, called platelets, sticking together when they met diseased blood tissue. The drug could therefore slow down blood clotting. By preventing the blockage of blood to the heart and brain, Vane showed that aspirin could reduce heart attacks and strokes in unhealthy people and for his pioneering work he won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1982.

For the past nine years, Doll's study has been looking at how a 500 milligram daily dose of aspirin affects 5,000 healthy British doctors. Doll's conclusion contradicts his American counterpart's. The British study has found that aspirin does not significantly reduce the risk of heart attack in healthy patients.

Moreover, some researchers warn that the Americans may have missed a fatal flaw in their research. Although there were nearly twice as many heart attacks among those who did not take aspirin (189) as among those who did (104) the small print may tell a different story.

Dr. Peter Sanderson, a neurologist at Edinburgh's Western General hospital, points out that aspirin may induce haemorrhage because of its blood-thinning capabilities.

He said: "The American study tends to gloss over the fact that in the aspirin-allocated group there were 13 brain haemorrhages while in the placebo [control] group there were only six."

The Americans dismiss these figures as statistically insignificant. However, Sanderson argues that the brain haemorrhage figures are alarmingly similar to those found in other studies, and that it is this evidence which has caused British resear-

chers to pause before advising people to reach for their aspirin tablets.

Doll said: "Although the American study shows a very big reduction in non-fatal heart attacks, its findings, like our own, show there is no significant reduction in the risk of fatal attacks. For healthy people I don't think the reduction in the risk of death is sufficient to justify the risk of nasty side effects such as brain haemorrhages."

To kill or to cure? Hippocrates, top left, then clockwise, Hoffmann, Hennekens, Doll and Vane

King criticises U.S. veto

(Continued from page 1) situation in the Middle East which he characterised as "very close" to the position of Arab leaders.

In addition to the King's talks with Mitterrand, several other French-Jordanian meetings were held Wednesday. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met with French Deputy Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri; he held talks with his French counterpart Jean-Bernard Raimond on bilateral relations. Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker met with the French defence minister and discussed Franco-Jordanian military cooperation.

The King was scheduled to meet Thursday with Premier Jacques Chirac before continuing to Bonn and Vienna.

Kuwait assails plans to end revolt

(Continued from page 1) negotiate an arrangement for some form of Palestinian "self-rule."

Shultz told a House of Representatives panel Tuesday night that the trip will be made by Richard W. Murphy.

Shultz said he had taken up various approaches with the leaders of Israel, Egypt and Jordan, and discussed some of his goals for Murphy's trip.

"We will want to touch base with others in the area, such as Syria and Saudi Arabia," Shultz said.

Uprising spreads; casualties mount

(Continued from page 1) Brutality recounted

when far-right member Gecula Cohen warned there would be war to prevent any withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The war we shall wage will be first of all against the war being fought in this house... for our withdrawal from" the West Bank, she shouted.

Right-wing religious minister without portfolio Yosef Shapira accused the defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, of describing the West Bank settlers as a burden.

Israel Radio said Jewish settlers in the West Bank sent a message to Rabin threatening to retaliate for Arab attacks on Israeli cars.

The radio said Rabin replied that "settlers are a burden" and should learn lessons from Israelis living along the Lebanon border who relied on the army for protection.

W. Bank events reflect frustration

70 per cent of UNRWA services are education-oriented, he noted.

Dillon said the agency plans to maintain the salaries of its teachers roughly in line with those on the government payroll. However, he noted, UNRWA teachers may have an edge over government-employed teachers.

Dillon arrived in Amman Tuesday. He was received Wednesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who keeps track of UNRWA's activities. Dillon is scheduled to leave Amman Thursday.

Iraq reaffirms stand on 598

(Continued from page 1) the need to implement Resolution 598.

Syria, meanwhile, accused Iraq of seeking to draw Arab Gulf states into the war. Iraq has denounced Syrian efforts to open a dialogue between Tehran and the six Arab members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Syria's state radio quoted an official source as saying Damascus had remained silent on Iraqi criticism of its Gulf mediation effort to avoid being dragged into a side battle at the time the Arab Nation is seeking to rectify the imbalance in inter-Arab relations.

The radio quoted the source as saying: "The Iraqi regime is seeking to drag Arab countries into the war to transform the conflict into a Persian-Arab war."

CHARACTERS IN THE CONTROVERSY



A NEW MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE BUSINESS TRAVELLER.

In order to fully appreciate the design behind British Airways new Club World, we suggest you put aside everything you ever imagined a long haul business class should be. And imagine something rather better. For a start, imagine more attention to detail. More attention to the design and presentation of everything from elegant chocolates to a carefully selected collection of amenities. Imagine more attention to give you even greater comfort, in the shape of our new 'Slumber Seats' ergonomically designed to help you work, relax and sleep. And from our dedicated Club World cabin crew? Imagine, quite simply, even more personal attention. British Airways Club World. A new mark of respect for the business traveller.

CLUB WORLD

BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline.

In bitter cold, Calgary is busy preparing for 1988 Winter Olympics

By Larry Siddons
The Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — From torchbearers to ticket-buyers, this Canadian rocky mountain city is full of signs that the opening of the Winter Olympics is just 10 days away.

In bitter cold weather, Calgary is busy putting the final touches on preparations for 16 days of skiing, skating and sledding.

The Olympic flame, ignited late last year by the sun in the warmth of ancient Olympia in Greece, was moving towards its final destination atop the 190-metre-high CP tower, Calgary's most visible landmark. It will be lit in a cauldron following opening ceremonies Feb. 13.

The torch run, which has carried the flame across Canada, travelled 65 kilometres Tuesday to Cranbrook in British Columbia, about 400 kilometres to the west of Calgary. The torch is scheduled to enter Alberta province Thursday.

Large crowds and good weather have followed the run, which Frank King, the chief executive officer of the Calgary Olympic organising committee, said had created a "positive avalanche" of Olympic anticipation.

King carried the flame himself for nine kilometres Monday and was set to help greet the torchbearers at Alberta's border.

Some athletes were in town well before the games and were

getting acquainted with their new surroundings. Soviet figure skater Ekaterina Gordeva, a favourite with Sergei Grinkov to win the pair gold medal, worked out at Okotoks, a training site outside Calgary.

"The atmosphere is cozy here, like at home," the 16-year-old Gordeva said through an interpreter.

At Canmore, site of the Nordic events, Canadian medal hope Pierre Harvey said he was taking it easy.

"It's time to rest," he said. "If we are not ready now, we just have to watch the Olympics."

There was no rest, however, for others getting ready for the games.

Olympic fever

All around Calgary, Olympic fever could be felt.

Workers are busy with final cleanup and construction at the venues — Canmore Nordic Centre, Nakiska Alpine Slopes, Canada Olympic Park, the Olympic Saddledome, the Olympic oval speed-skating rink and the Olympic Plaza downtown, where medal ceremonies will be held

each night of the Winter Games. Flags of the organising committee, known as OCO '88, are everywhere in the city. They are whipped by winds that made the temperature of minus 4 degrees seem even colder.

Snow flurries dusted the city overnight, but Tuesday was generally clear. The cold weather, which arrived late last week, has given organisers a chance to stockpile snow and cover skating areas with manmade snow.

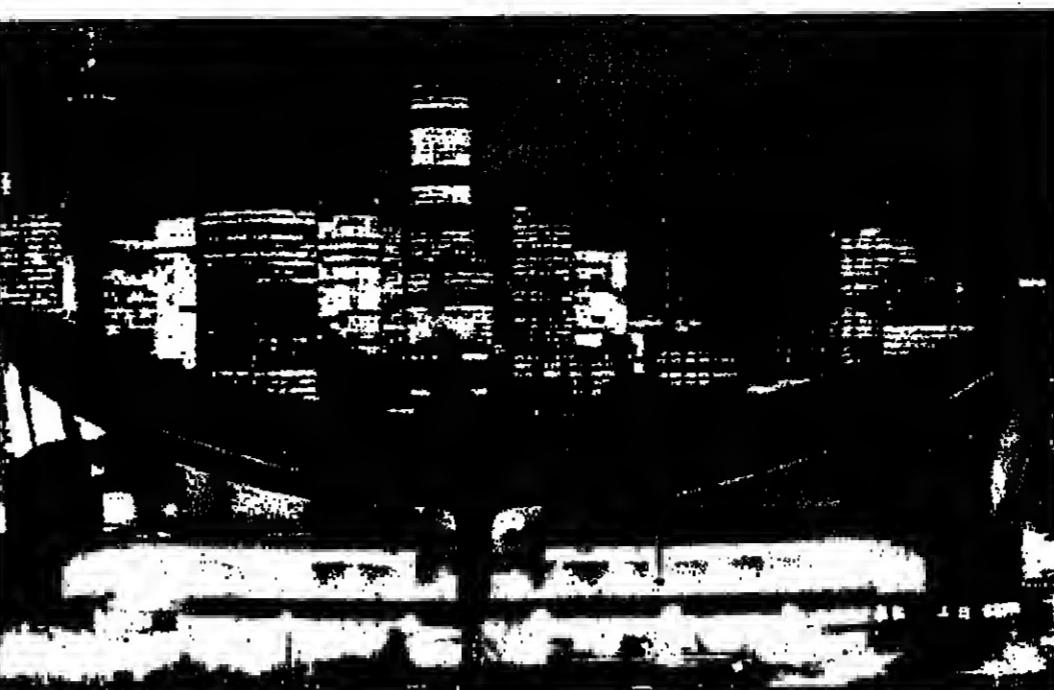
The forecast called for snow flurries Wednesday and Thursday, with even colder temperatures.

The frigid weather did little to dissuade fans hoping to get the last few prime tickets for major events.

More than 4,000 people, wearing ski masks, parkas and thermal boots and warmed by woolen blankets and steaming beverages, waited up to 14 hours Monday to buy leftover tickets to the opening ceremonies, ice hockey medal round games and other top contests.

"It was well worth it," said Kristen Cameron, who stayed up all night to buy two \$75 seats for the opening ceremonies.

The 200 available tickets for the opening ceremonies were the first to go. Organisers later reported sellouts for closing ceremonies, figure skating, speedskating, short-track speedskating and most medal-round hockey.



The Calgary skyline rises behind the hockey and figure-skating arena



Olympic mascots Bowdy and Hidy with a skier at Calgary

Redskins defensive end says team deserves respect

HONOLULU (AP) — Washington Redskins defensive end Charles Mann says he hopes the Redskins finally get the respect they deserve after their 42-10 Super Bowl victory over the Denver Broncos.

"No one really seemed to give us much credit before," he said Tuesday.

"Considering this Super Bowl, and when you realise Washington's been in three Super Bowls in the '80s and won two of them, I think maybe we'll finally get that respect."

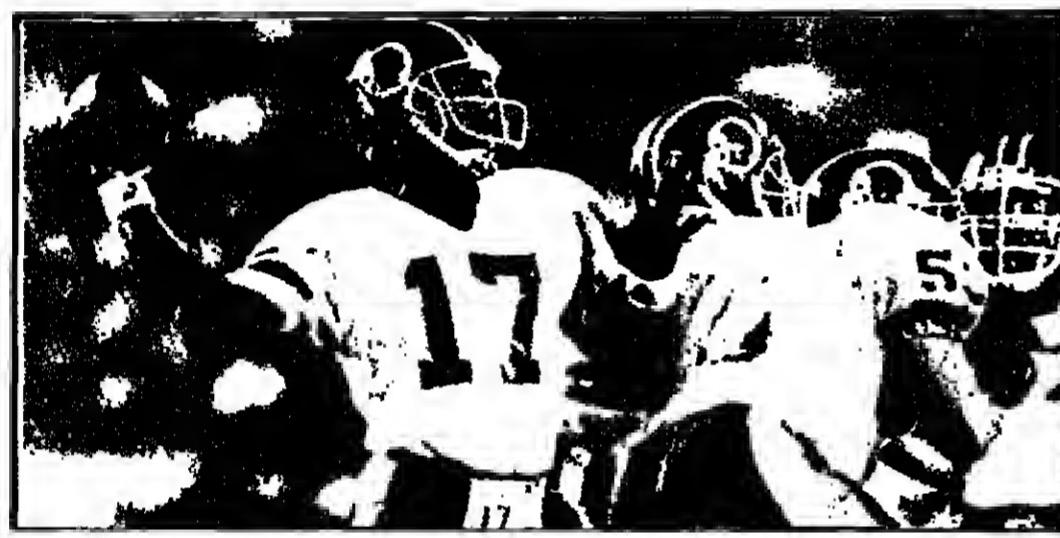
The Redskins, underdogs to the Broncos going into the Super Bowl, roared back from a 10-point deficit to take complete control of the game Sunday in the second quarter.

"We'd like to have played well all the way from the opening bell," Mann said. "It took us a while to get going. But we did the job once we did."

Looking back on the hoopla surrounding the game, Mann said he thought that there was too much pre-game pressure put on the quarterbacks for both teams.

"I really felt for John Elway," Mann said of the Broncos' quarterback. "Everybody was talking about how he was the player, everybody was really putting pressure on him."

"It wasn't fair, because a lot of other people on their team have to complement what he do. I also felt kind of bad for the rest of



Redskins' Doug Williams (no. 17) poised for a superb pass during Sunday's Super Bowl game with Denver Broncos

their players because they weren't given enough credit."

Mann, a fifth-year pro, is in Honolulu for the Pro Bowl. He will be playing in Sunday's Pro Bowl game, which pits players from the American and national conferences against each other. Mann will play for the National Conference.

"And there was too much pressure on Doug Williams, too," Mann said of the Redskins' quarterback who was the Super Bowl's most valuable player.

"We'll be getting ready for the Pro Bowl all this week, so I guess I really won't have time to think about the Super Bowl until football's completely over," he said. "I felt for him the same way I felt for Elway because there was

so much stuff about Doug being the first black quarterback in the Super Bowl."

"That was about all you heard about him, but I think it was more important that he was a player who had been around for a long time, got another chance and made the most of it."

Mann, who will be playing in the Pro Bowl for the first time, said he really hadn't had time to savour the Super Bowl victory.

"I felt for him the same way I felt for Elway because there was

"I'm looking forward to having some time to let it sink in."

Victory parade

In Washington, thousands of fans cheered their heroes Wednesday at a rousing Redskins' victory parade down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Federal and local government workers were given time off and school students were excused for the event climaxing this city's excitement over the Redskins beating of the Broncos.

Hundreds of people, shouting and waving newly purchased banners, gathered hours before the 11 a.m. parade began.

Ditka, Biletnikoff, Ham and Page elected to Hall of Fame

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Mike Ditka said it really wasn't fair to have had as much fun as he did playing football and still be elected to the American Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The Chicago Bears coach was elected Tuesday along with Fred Biletnikoff, Jack Ham and Alan Page.

"It's mind boggling," said Ditka, who played 12 years in the National Football League (NFL).

Biletnikoff, a flanker with the Oakland Raiders famed for his timing and exacting pass routes, said, "I can't tell you how excited I am. It's a big, big thrill for me."

Ham, a key performer in the Pittsburgh Steelers' "steel curtain" during four Super Bowl victories in the 1970s, said, "(my) whole career was a highlight."

Page, a cornerstone at defensive tackle on the Minnesota Vikings' famed "purple people eaters" defence, said, "(my) whole career was a highlight."

Ditka is the first pure tight end ever elected to the hall. Biletnikoff is the fifth raider to get the honour. Ham was the second player from the Steelers' Super Bowl years to be honoured, following "Mean Joe" Greene. Page became the second Viking to make the hall, joining quarterback Fran Tarkenton.

Ditka did not miss a start in 84 games with the Bears and earned all-pro honours his first four seasons. He had 427 receptions for 5,812 yards and 43 touchdowns in his career.

Biletnikoff, who will turn 45 later this month, spent 14 years with the Raiders. He caught 589 passes — seventh best all-time — for 8,974 yards and 76 touchowns. He caught 40 or more passes for 10 straight seasons, and his 70 catches for 1,167 yards and 10 touchdowns in 19 post-season games were records at the time of his retirement.

Ham, 39, missed only four games in his first 10 seasons in the NFL. The outside linebacker from Penn State finished a 12-year career with 25½ sacks, 21 fumble recoveries and 32 interceptions.

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Economy

Deposits at Post Office Savings Fund reach JD 7m

AMMAN (Petra) — Funds deposited by the public at the Post Office Savings Fund in the first 10 months of 1987 amounted to JD 7,049 million compared with JD 6,085 for the same period of 1986, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The bulletin said that the number of depositors stood at 211,900 by the end of October 1987 compared with 173,500 in the same period of 1986. It said that the fund now has 289 branches around the country compared with 281 by the end of 1986.

These branches, it said, granted loans totalling JD 410,000 to members of the public in the first 10 months of 1987 and that the fund's investments in development projects amounted to JD 6,14 million by the end of October 1987.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordanian cigarette output increases

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan produced 3,584,500,000 cigarettes in the first 11 months of 1987 compared with 3,495,300,000 in the same period of 1986, according to a report in the local Al Dustour newspaper. It said that Jordan's production of cigarettes declined by 37.1 million cigarettes in November 1987 compared with the previous month, when a total of 357.4 million cigarettes were produced.

Banks in Jordan expand credit facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — Banks in Jordan granted credit facilities totalling JD 1,557,204,000 to industrial, commercial, municipal and touristic organisations, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan. The bulletin said that the facilities were offered between Jan. 1 and Nov. 30 of 1987 and that the amount represent an increase of JD 166.4 million over figures of the same period of 1986. According to the bulletin, the construction, commercial and municipal sectors were among those acquiring the lion's share in these facilities. The three received a total of JD 956,763 million.

Jordanian fair to be held in S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian trade fair will be held in Riyadh later this month displaying samples of Jordan's industrial products, according to an announcement by the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC). The announcement said that the week-long fair will open on Feb. 24 and that interested Jordanian companies should inform the JCCC by Feb. 10.

S. Arabia imposes road tax

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia introduced road tax for vehicles of 200 riyals (\$54) a year Tuesday in a fresh bid to increase revenues, government officials said. The tax is expected to add about \$200 million a year to state coffers, hit by a sharp decline in prices for oil, Saudi Arabia's main export earner. Vehicle owners will pay the tax when renewing registrations. The kingdom last month cancelled plans to collect income tax from expatriate workers after the move brought strong protests.

Qatar Petrochemical Company registers \$23 million profit

DOHA (R) — Qatar Petrochemical Co. (QAPCO) said Tuesday it had turned a 1986 loss into a profit of \$3 million riyals (\$23 million) during 1987.

The company, owned 84 per cent by the government holding company Qatar General Petroleum Corp. (QGPC) and 16 per cent by France's Charbonnages de France-Chimie, had reported a 1986 loss of \$7 million riyals (\$15.6 million).

The company said turnover increased to 454 million riyals (\$124.4 million) in 1987 from 447

million riyals (\$122.4 million) in 1986.

QAPCO's General Manager Michel Fenain attributed the turnaround to cost cuts and improved polyethylene prices which he said averaged \$700 per tonne compared with \$500 in 1986.

He said production of ethylene increased to 263,000 tonnes from 258,000 tonnes in 1986, linear low density polyethylene decreased to 174,000 tonnes from 176,000 tonnes and sulphur increased to 48,000 tonnes from 45,000 tonnes.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You should pay particular attention to the details of a new course of action before a minor flaw has a chance to cause you some big trouble. Try to think a couple of moves ahead so you won't be taken by surprise.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Seek out the advice of experts with both old and new points of view. Combine these two opinions and get the best of both worlds.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may encounter an opportunity to engage in an old-favorite recreation today. This would brighten your mood considerably.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Work on modernizing and improving the condition of your house, then invite some old friends in for an evening of entertainment.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get your transportation situation better organized now, while you have the time. Try to cut down on your expenses.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make some arrangements at home which will add some cheer and comfort to the place, but make sure you don't spend too much money.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may feel a bit run down this morning.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The day will start off on a happy, benign note, but some ill will and arguments could easily destroy that. Be sure you remain calm and poised, and try to avoid any confrontations if you are able.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your daily routines may seem a bit boring, but if you go running off to something new, you could get into a whole heap of trouble.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't involve yourself in an argument between a good friend and a business acquaintance — it will resolve itself very quickly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Schedule your time carefully so that you can handle home and family affairs without neglecting your business and personal interests.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Steer clear of an argument between a good friend and a fellow worker. Keep occupied with your work, but don't get bogged down.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Trying to make peace between your mate and a business associate would not be wise; you would likely wind up sweeping the floor.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't let a family friend keep you!

Gulf Arab aluminium industry plans major expansion projects

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf aluminium producers believe cheap energy supplies may be the key that will turn the region into a major force in the world's aluminium industry.

After a year of record Gulf production, plans for a major expansion in smelting capacity are to go ahead in spite of a recession caused by declining government oil revenues.

One of two Gulf smelters is preparing to boost capacity 25 per cent, construction of a third smelter is scheduled to begin in July and plans for a fourth are being studied.

"We're working on the basis of vast closures in the United States," said one industry consultant. "Everyone has agreed that a third smelter in the Gulf — and maybe a fourth — is possible."

Gudvin Toft, chief executive of Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) says the price at which he can sell aluminium has nearly doubled over a year to \$1,900 a tonne.

"Right now, there are no signs prices will fall," he told Reuters in an interview.

The Gulf's main advantage is its huge fields of natural gas, which have made power costs for local producers cheaper than those for most producers elsewhere in the world, according to officials in the energy-intensive industry.

Canada's aluminium industry

can rely on vast resources of cheap hydro-electric power, but U.S. producers, who account for a big share of the 13 to 15 million tonnes of annual world production, have been hit by rising energy costs.

One local industry source believes up to 11 U.S. smelters will have to close in the near future, and Gulf producers with cheaper energy can take their place.

The local industry has won an increasing share of the international market.

With no exploitable ore deposits, raw material comes mostly from Australia, and with a local market of only around 100,000 tonnes per year, exports go mainly to the Far East.

Dubai Aluminium Company Ltd. (Ducal) said its 1987 production of 155,876 tonnes was the highest since the plant opened in the late 1970s.

Alba, which started up in 1971, also reported a record 1987 output of 180,344 tonnes. Neither company has released profit figures.

Of the two new plants under consideration, the 240,000 tonne a year Umm Al Qaiwain Aluminium Company (Umalco) smelter in the United Arab Emirates is further advanced.

Umalco officials say they hope to have all of 15 or 16 contracts to build the \$1.2 billion plant signed by May, and the three-year con-

struction project should begin by July.

They say Chinese companies have agreed to lift a big share of its production for 12 years after the plant is finished.

The Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), owned by the governments of seven countries in the region, says it will make a feasibility study for a fourth Gulf smelter during 1988.

GOIC said the focus is on Qatar because of abundant gas reserves, although Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia are also in the running.

In the next few weeks, Alba will invite tenders for the first phase of an 80 million dinar (\$212 million) expansion and modernisation programme.

In the 45 million dinar (\$120 million) first phase, to begin in mid-year for an end-of-1989 startup, Alba will upgrade the power station to save energy.

The programme also calls for adding 76 reduction cells for a total 25,000 tonnes of increased capacity.

The 35 million dinar (\$93 million) second phase, to start in mid-1988, involves adding computer-controlled process technology and a gas collection system.

When it is finished at the end of 1991, annual capacity will have risen another 20,000 tonnes.

Arab Banking Corp. boosts loss reserves

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's biggest offshore bank, Arab Banking Corp. (ABC), said Tuesday it was adding \$375 million to Third World debt provisions and would declare no profit for 1987.

The bank, jointly owned by Kuwait, Libya and the Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi, said its move was taken to cope with a new international trend in setting aside reserves against developing countries in value of its assets.

It would boost the bank's cover to 22.5 per cent of its total loan exposure to those nations rescheduling their debt.

President and chief executive Abdulla Sandi told Reuters: "We want to show we have built up enough reserves throughout the years to cope with the new trend in the market."

A financial statement from the

bank said \$158 million were allocated to provisions from 1987 operating profits plus \$217 million from reserves and retained earnings.

Some \$125 million came from the specific aim of setting aside some profits each year against the possible future reduction in value of its assets.

The result of the move is to reduce shareholders' funds to \$1.06 billion from \$1.26 billion at the end of 1986, but Sandi said: "We still have good shareholders' equity, it is over \$1 billion."

The measures mean ABC will pay no dividend to shareholders — the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance, Libyan Treasury and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. It de-

clared a net profit in 1986 of \$107 million and paid out \$33 million.

With the exception of some specialised investment houses, ABC is the second major international bank in Bahrain to reveal 1987 results. The consortium bank Arilbank International — 10 per cent owned by ABC — took a \$132 million loss in a move to boost its provisions to 19 per cent of loans.

The level of provisions set aside by Bahrain-based banks has often been a secret and ABC had not specified its level before.

ABC's operating profit increased 7.4 per cent in 1987 to \$188 million despite a fall in interest income from some nations with debt problems, while group assets rose a strong 20 per cent to \$17.55 billion at end-1987.

The White House announced the move, which also affects com-

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares struggled back from their lows after Wall Street recovered from an opening sell-off on unconfirmed reports of a possible nuclear accident in the Soviet Union.

Up until mid-session shares had been dull, drifting on lack of support with investors uncertain about the outlook for U.K. and U.S. interest rates, dealers said. British base lending rates rose ½ point to nine per cent, Monday while U.S. prime rates were cut ¼ point to 8¾ per cent Tuesday.

By 1511 GMT the FTSE 100 index had recovered to be 11 points down at 1,763.4 after the low of 1,756.9 about half an hour after the 1430 GMT Wall Street stock market opening.

Dealers said Tuesday's prime rate cut by major U.S. banks should bode well for the London market as it takes some of the upward pressure off rates here. However, many investors feel the U.K. authorities may raise interest rates again if inflation looks as if it is gaining a foothold.

Gold shares stood out with heavy losses, as the bullion price slipped to its lowest level since July last year. Five dollars was sliced off the price of producer Valo Reefs at 86⅓.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling 1.7640/50
One U.S. dollar 1.2765/75
1.6890/6900
1.8986/96
1.3775/85
35.28/32
5.6990/7020
1243/1245
128.37/47
6.0450/0500
6.3900/50
6.4550/4600

U.S. dollar
Canadian dollar
Deutschmarks
Dutch guilders
Swiss francs
Belgian francs
French francs
Italian lire
Japanese yen
Swedish crowns
Norwegian crowns
Danish crowns
U.S. dollars

One ounce of gold 445.26/446.25

Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Gold price drops sharply

LONDON (R) — Gold prices fell sharply Wednesday but the dollar was pushed upwards by what several dealers described as market rumours — unsubstantiated from any official source — that there had been a nuclear accident in the Soviet Union.

Traders worried that risk of a U.S.

economic slowdown was rising.

Before the accident rumours hit the currency markets, the price of gold dropped more than \$445 in Zurich — its lowest since July. It was later fixed in London at \$471.10, down \$8.80 on Tuesday's afternoon setting.

The meeting, expected to last two hours, will be their first talks since Oct. 19 when the U.S.

Treasury arranged a lightning visit to Baker to Bonn to try to calm a trans-Atlantic war of words over West German economic policy and ease financial market jitters.

The meeting failed to produce results. Within hours the disappointment helped to send the Dow Jones industrial average plunging 508 points, or 22.6 per cent, dragging other stock markets around the world down with it.

U.S. banks cut lending rates

Meanwhile, dealers in currencies, shares and precious metals said Tuesday's U.S. government report that its index of leading economic indicators was down for the third consecutive month

pointed to slowing growth. In a move that could give the American economy a boost, U.S.

banks cut lending rates.

Dealers said Asian and Middle Eastern traders were heavy sellers on Wednesday. That selling sparked off sales by speculators in Europe, especially in Switzerland.

For the dollar, slow U.S. eco-

nomic growth could be a mixed blessing, dealers said. A slowdown would cut the massive U.S. trade deficit, which has helped to halve the value of the dollar against the yen and the mark since early 1985.

But it makes most investments in the United States less attractive. That cuts demand for dollars.

Expectations that foreign investors would be big buyers at the three-day, \$27 billion auction of U.S. government bonds which started Tuesday had been prop-

ing the dollar.

South Africa supports all-party conference on Angola, Namibia

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa is ready to sit down with Angola's Marxist government at an all-party regional conference providing the pro-Western Angolan rebel movement UNITA also takes part, Foreign Minister Piki Botha said.

In a television interview Tuesday night, Botha backed the idea of a conference to discuss the future of South African-controlled Namibia but he indicated Pretoria first wanted firm assurances of a Cuban withdrawal from Angola.

"Merely to talk without making progress now on the issue of Cuban withdrawal, in my opinion would be futile," he said.

His remarks followed a U.S. statement that Angola had accepted the idea that all Cuban troops should leave its territory if a regional peace settlement could be reached.

Pretoria has made withdrawal of the 40,000 Cubans a pre-condition for giving up the former German colony of Namibia which it controls in defiance of the United Nations.

South Africa's state radio reported that diplomatic negotiations on the apparent breakthrough took place in Washington Tuesday. It said U.S. officials, who have been striving for years to resolve the interlocked conflicts in Namibia and Angola, held discussions with South African Ambassador Piet Koomhof during the night.

South Africa, which keeps troops on the Namibian-Angola border, backs UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebels who have been fighting the government since Angola gained independence from Portugal 13 years ago.

Botha named a number of parties who should attend any conference, including UNITA, the South African-appointed administration in Namibia and the

weapons and six vehicles from the rebels in the province in 1987.

According to the report, Donge said another 2,000 UNITA guerrillas gave themselves up to local authorities "taking advantage of our national policy of clemency."

The UNITA note, signed by rebel Chief of Staff Gen. Demostenes Amos Chilunguila, said rebel units overran the Moçambique of Karipanda Monday after an hour's fighting.

A high-ranking member of SWAPO said Tuesday he did not believe Angola would agree to a withdrawal of Cuban troops from its territory without first security guarantees of a parallel pullout of South African forces.

Hage Geingob, a member of SWAPO's politburo, was commenting on an announcement in Washington on total Cuban pullout.

"I don't think the Angolans would allow the Cubans to withdraw without the South Africans withdrawing as well. There is no way they would risk that," Geingob told Reuters in Lusaka.

Thai troops, jets attack Laotians on border hills

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand has intensified attacks on Laotian forces clinging to contested border hills.

Army spokesman said Wednesday that Thai troops, backed by airstrikes, have driven Laotian soldiers out of all but two hilltop positions in a remote 80-square-kilometre area of rugged hills each side claims.

Thai jets flew 34 bombing and strafing runs against Laotian hilltop positions 400 kilometres north of Bangkok Monday and Tuesday, Air Force Chief Voranart Aphichai said.

Laos state radio claimed Tuesday it shot down an F-5 fighter but Voranart said five Sam-7 missiles fired at his planes missed.

Thai Army Commander Chavalit Yongsayayndh told reporters Tuesday that a third country was helping the tiny army of Laos fire sustained, accurate and heavy artillery barrages to prolong the conflict.

"Thousands of shells are being fired daily and we know for sure they were fired by people with combat experience," Chavalit said.

Vietnam has 40,000 troops in Laos.

Historian ends futile search for Waldheim document

BELGRADE (R) — A West German historian probing President Kurt Waldheim's wartime past in Yugoslavia has given up a search for a document said to implicate Waldheim in Nazi war crimes.

But Yugoslav historian Dusan Plenica, who brought the alleged document to public attention, is sticking by his claim that it lies in Yugoslav archives.

Manfred Messerschmidt, member of a commission investigating Waldheim's World War II service as a German army officer in the Balkans, left Yugoslavia Tuesday after failing to find the document in Belgrade or Zagreb.

Waldheim has denied any involvement in war crimes and said the telegram must be a forgery. Messerschmidt had a news conference in Zagreb that he and his Yugoslav research assistant Zoran Jovanovic had found no trace of the document in Zagreb or Belgrade archives.

The papers are available in Belgrade and Zagreb archives, Plenica told Belgrade television Tuesday, criticising Messerschmidt for spending too little time in the archives.

"No historian in the world can penetrate archives in one or two days, especially not those of the independent state of Croatia, which are spread out in about 30 places," he said referring to the fascist puppet state set up in Croatia by occupying Nazi forces.

The document published by Der Spiegel purports to be a telegram sent in July 1942 by a Croatian commander to a German commander, advising that a Lieutenant Kurt Waldheim sought the deportation of over 4,000 Yugoslavs.

The document was reproduced in the latest issue of the West German magazine Der Spiegel.

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Plenica told Reuters Monday that the document was in the Yugoslav archives in Belgrade, but Jovanovic said officials there had told him it was untraceable.

Mulroney sacks 7th minister

OTTAWA (R) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has fired a senior cabinet minister in a sudden development involving an apparent conflict-of-interest guideline.

Mulroney issued a brief statement late Tuesday saying he had asked for and received the resignation of Michel Cote, 45, minister of supply and services.

It was the seventh cabinet resignation since Mulroney's Progressive Conservative Government won a landslide election victory in September 1984.

The statement said the prime minister learned that Cote, from Quebec, might have breached the conflict-of-interest code requiring ministers to disclose personal financial holdings.

"Upon receiving confirmation of these facts, the prime minister asked for and received Mr. Cote's resignation," the prime minister's office said.

The unexpected turn of events follows two weeks of persistent opposition attacks over whether another cabinet member, Energy Minister Marcel Masse, had broken rules governing election expenses.

Mulroney's government was plagued by scandals and cabinet resignations during its first two years in office and trailed the opposition parties in public opinion polls by a wide margin which has only recently narrowed.

Haitians protest scheduled inauguration of president-elect

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — About ten thousand Haitians marched through the capital in protest at next Sunday's scheduled inauguration of President-elect Manigat.

The hymn-singing crowd, led by choirmen and priests, carried lighted candles and knelt raising their arms in prayer.

"Long live Jesus down with dictatorship." "we must save Haiti" chanted old women as they were helped along by younger people.

Haiti's four leading opposition figures, who boycotted the Jan.

17 elections, joined the demonstration.

Last month's elections were hastily called by the military-led interim government after a vote on Nov. 29 was cancelled when gunmen opened fire on the voters in polling stations and the streets, killing over 30 people.

The opposition leaders refused to accept Manigat's victory, charging that less than five percent of the electorate took part in a vote marred by widespread fraud.

An opposition spokesman said other protests would be staged before Manigat's inauguration.

Gunman arrested, school hostages freed in Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, Alabama (R) — A gunman described by police as a mentally disturbed Vietnam war veteran held 26 children and a teacher hostage in a 12-hour ordeal that ended when he was tricked into coming outside.

The standoff at a primary school ended peacefully Tuesday night when police lured the man out with the promise of a news conference and then wrestled him to the ground.

"Please don't hurt me," the suspect, identified as James Harvey, shouted as five police officers pounced on him.

"They let me down. They didn't do what I asked them to do," the 43-year-old Harvey said as he was put into a police car.

During the siege, Harvey, a slightly built man, summoned a reporter and told him he was trying to publicise the problems of the homeless and Vietnam veterans.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Iraq to host Arab drama festival

BAGHDAD (AP) — More than 580 theatre personalities and critics are taking part in an Arab drama festival opening here next week, officials said Tuesday. Muhsen Al Azawi, head of the organising committee of the festival, said 20 Arab countries had announced they would send their top theatre companies to take part in the 10-day festival. The event is run by the Ministry of Culture and Information. "The Iraqi audience will have an opportunity to enjoy a variety of shows performed by distinguished Arab stage artists while Iraqi dramatists will profit from the rich experience of their Arab colleagues," Al Azawi said. He would not comment on the budget for the festival but said the ministry would pay all expenses for the participants, including return air fare, hotel accommodation and food. There will be no competition in the festival, which opens on Feb. 10, and all troupes will have equal opportunities to perform plays of their choice, said Al Azawi, himself a state director. The Egyptian participation will be the most distinguished. Among those slated to attend are Saad El Din Wahba, head of the Union of Movie Professions; Actresses Samia Ayoub and Sanaa Gamal; and Galal Al Sharqawi, theatre director and actor. All nine theatres in Baghdad were renovated for the festival.

Women Marines to guard U.S. missions

WASHINGTON (R) — In a step to reduce sexual discrimination in the armed forces, the Defence Department has announced that women Marines would be allowed to help guard U.S. embassies and diplomatic missions overseas. Also, female air force personnel will also be allowed to serve in civil engineering and other units which build forward airfields and facilities in wartime. Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary David Armour said. The steps will open 4,000 previously all-male jobs to women: 1,400 in the Marines and 2,600 in the air force. Nearly 10,000 navy positions on supply ships and reconnaissance planes were recently opened to women for the first time. "Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has approved the moves based on recommendations from a Defence Department study group," Armour told a news conference. Armour headed a four-month Pentagon investigation into scathing reports of discrimination and sexual harassment against many of the 266,000 women in the 2.1 million-member U.S. Armed Forces. He said Marine Commandant General Alfred Gray had approved the change to allow women to help guard U.S. diplomatic missions. More than 1,400 men are assigned to the Marine Corps Security Guard Battalion which handles that job.

Charles, Diana visit crocodile farm

DARWIN, Australia (AP) — The Prince and Princess of Wales Wednesday visited a crocodile farm outside Darwin as the last official stop on their 10-day Australian tour. They visited Australia to help the country mark the 200th anniversary of European settlement. Dozens of photographers jostled around the royal couple at the crocodile farm. Diana was invited to pat a baby crocodile held by a Northern Territory conservation commission ranger. The princess unhesitatingly obliged. The couple departed Australia en route to Bangkok, Thailand, where they will spend two days before returning to Britain.

Princess Alexandra's son to wed

LONDON (AP) — James Ogilvy, 23-year-old son of Princess Alexandra, is to marry Julia Rawlinson, whom he met when they were art students five years ago, his family has announced. Ogilvy, 22nd in line to the British throne, works for an investment bank. His mother, one of the most popular members of the royal family, is a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and sister of the Duke of Kent and Prince Michael of Kent. His father, Angus Ogilvy, is a businessman. Rawlinson, also 23, is one of three daughters of a British businessman and his wife. The couple met at St. Andrews University in Scotland, where both were studying for a degree in history of art. A court circular issued from Princess Alexandra's home said she and her husband were "delighted" to announce their son's engagement.

Women on ropes raid House of Lords

LONDON (AP) — Three women swooped from the gallery on ropes and plunged into the chamber of the House of Lords during a noisy demonstration over a vote to restrict promotion of homosexuality. The uproar broke out when the peers voted 202 to 122 in favour of a government bill outlawing activities by local authorities promoting homosexuality. Three women slid down ropes into the ornate crimson and gold chamber while supporters in the gallery above cheered and shouted homosexual rights slogans. While several hundred peers looked on, the women were wrestled to the floor by three ushers, led by the chief usher, or Black Rod, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell. Later police said five women were being held. The unelected lords have the power to amend bills passed by the House of Commons, but not to veto them, and the Commons ultimately can override amendments by the Lords. "It was the most extraordinary scene, it beat anything that ever happened in the Commons," said Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman of the governing Conservative Party, who witnessed the scene.

Man who killed 33 women is executed

MOSCOW (AP) — A metalworker who killed 33 women over 15 years in the Soviet republic of Byelorussia has been executed, the TASS news agency has said. The rare report by the Soviet News Agency about the serial killings did not say when or where G. Mikhasevich had been executed. Execution in the Soviet Union is by firing squad. It said the investigation into the series of killings had taken the wrong track for years, and that illegal actions by police had brought others to trial for Mikhasevich's crimes. "The sentence passed on G. Mikhasevich, who savagely killed women in the territory of Soviet Byelorussia, has been carried out. The hardened criminal killed 33 women over nearly 15 years," TASS said. "Breeches of law were committed, as a result of which 12 people who were not involved in these crimes found themselves in the dock. All of them were rehabilitated. Law enforcement officials, who are held responsible for lawlessness, were punished. Criminal charges are brought against some of them," TASS said.

Mrs. America becomes Mrs. World

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia (AP) — The new Mrs. World is the 25-year-old Mrs. America, modelling instructor Pamela Nail. Mrs. Nail, from Mississippi, was chosen from 32 contestants in a two-hour pageant Wednesday at this Queensland resort. She takes over from Mrs. World 1987, New Zealander Barbara Riley. The runner-up was Swedish musician Susanna Beijer and 30-year-old boutique owner Karin Snellers of The Netherlands was third. Next was 23-year-old Israeli Ilia Ruderman with Karen Daly of Australia in fifth place. The pageant included swimsuit modelling, but Mrs. Nail said she believed it was more than a beauty contest. "You're judged in everything you do, in every field of life, so I don't feel that this is any different," she said. Press photographers chose Mrs. Austria, Christiane Toffel, as Mrs. Photogenic.

If nature calls between floors, wait

SINGAPORE (R) — Singaporeans who urinate in lifts are being caught with their pants down by an ingenious gadget. The device, installed on a trial basis in some buildings, automatically jams the lift and activates a video camera when it detects urine. Two men using a lift as a toilet last month were arrested thanks to the detector. "I'm unhappy that such things happen and that we have to resort to this to catch people," a local official said.

Weekend Crossword not received

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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'REGICIDE' IS A BRIDGE CRIME

Neither vulnerable. South deals, NORTH
♦K 8 5 3
♦K 10 9 6
♦Q 7 4 2
♦A 6 5

WEST EAST
♦Q J 10 7 6 ♦A 9 4
♦V 4 ♦V 5 2
♦K J 5 ♦A 10 9 8 3
♦Q 10 4 3 ♦K J 6 2

SOUTH
♦2
♦V A Q J 8 7 3
♦V A Q 6
♦A 9 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 V 1 ♠ 2 V 2 ♣
4 ♦ Pass Pass Pass ♦ Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♡

Among the bromides responsible for the high rate of suicide among bridge players is "cover an honor with an honor." That is sound advice in most cases, but sometimes it is clearly wrong.
This hand is from a team game and at both tables the final contract was four hearts. Note North's free raise to two hearts: it is seldom right to pass even with slight values when you have four-card support for partner's suit.
At both tables the opening lead

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION TENDER NOTICE NO. TCC1/88
SUPPLY OF HEAVY MATERIALS FOR LOCAL LINE PLANT PROJECTS

The Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC) announces Tender No. TCC 1/88 for the Supply of Heavy Materials for Local Line Plant Projects such as cables, wooden poles, PVC pipes, manhole covers and dropwire, as part of the implementation programme of the Five-Year Development Plan for the expansion of the Telephone Network in Jordan.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has applied for a loan from the World Bank, and intends to use the proceeds of this loan to finance part of the cost of the project for which this invitation to bid is issued. As the available World Bank financing is insufficient to cover all the cost of this procurement, bidders are invited to submit in addition to the bid price a financing offer, at their option, to finance the contract cost or part of it.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers from the World Bank member countries Switzerland, and Taiwan - China, are invited to participate in this tender, in accordance with the terms, stipulations and technical specifications contained in the bidding documents.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee, P.O. Box 1689, Telecommunications Corporation, Amman - Jordan, as of Thursday, February 11, 1988 against a payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred (100) Jordanian Dinars (JD).

Bids, accompanied by bid security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time on Saturday, April 16, 1988.

Director General
Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail

U.S. general: Moscow, Peking won't back N. Korea in war

SEOUL (R) — The Soviet Union and China will not back North Korea if it attacks South Korea, the U.S. military commander here said Wednesday.

General Louis Menetrey told foreign journalists in Seoul he expected the North, an ally of both Communist giants, to increase terrorism against the South rather than mount a full-scale attack in the run-up to this year's Seoul Olympics.

The Koreas fought a war from 1950-3 and the United Nations at the time branded North Korea the aggressor. Pyongyang accuses Seoul of starting the conflict.

Last month, North Korea warned that the two Koreas could go to war again unless they resolved pending problems including military tension.

The general gave a flat "no" when asked if he thought either the Soviet Union or China would support Pyongyang if it renewed war in the divided Korean peninsula, he added.

Menetrey said there was no lessening of a military threat from the North, but it would be "foolhardy" for North Koreans to venture into military adventure.

Menetrey is chief of the United Nations Command, set up under a U.N. resolution at the outset of the Korean war. He is also leader of the U.S.-South Korean Combined Forces Command, which has more than 600